

# FOR MY COUNTRY:

In the Words of the Russian Peoples  
Themselves

*Edited by* ✓  
**B. P. L. BEDI**



**INDIAN PRINTING WORKS**  
**KACHERI ROAD - LAHORE**

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By the same editor

THE INVISIBLE FRONT  
MUSLIMS IN SOVIET RUSSIA  
RUSSIA RE-BUILDS  
SOVIET OFFENSIVE ON DEATH AND DISEASE  
RUSSIA TO-DAY AND TOMORROW  
CONTROVERSIES ANSWERED

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**“ United and strong in our single and common will ; we are the sons of one native country. Our’s and the country’s is a single heart—and with this strength shall we always win the battle and crush the enemy to ashes and dust.”**

*—Azerbaijani Poet Samed Vurgun.*



**Dedicated  
to  
The Friends of the Soviet Union**

*Editor's Foreword*

## WHY THIS BOOK ?

THE theme of this book is far too great to need any apology. It is the patriotism of the peoples of the Soviet Union. In this book the Russians speak for themselves.

The peoples of the Soviet Union, when attacked by Hitler and Hitlerism, rose in one body to defend their land. For the young it was the land of their birth, for the old it was the land of their new birth. The October Revolution, being the birthdate of them all. It was a miracle of the strength of "one will" when peoples of all colours, white, yellow and brown ; of all races, Semetic, Mongol, and Aryan ; of all religions, Christians, Muslims, Jews ; and of all nationalities, Russians, Georgians, Turkmans, Cossacks, Uzbeks and others, took to arms for the defence of the soil of their common fatherland. Christian Church dignitaries, Muslim Ulemas, Muftis, and Imams, appealed to people of their own religions to muster for defence. Presidents of the Free Republics tell of how citizens came forward to swell the ranks of the Red Army.

Twelve years ago Hitler lit the torch which set fire to the Reichstag buildings, the parliamentary seat of

German democracy. Sparks flew, charring the conscience of Nazi Germany, and flames like terror leapt in all directions and freedom was burnt to cinders in over a dozen countries in the pretty and prosperous continent of Europe. Unquenched this flood of fire ran over the Russian plains and marshes, unstemmed it scorched Stalingrad, it set Leningrad aglow, and threatened Moscow within fourteen miles. That day, Hitler's thunderous voice came over the radio and told the world "I shall bring Stalin to Berlin in chains".

To-day, we have heard Stalin telling the peoples of the world "the Red Flag flies over Berlin". Between these two announcements, the clock of history has travelled fast. The Nazi attempt to chime in the barbarism of the dark Middle Ages has been foiled at the point of the Red bayonet, and at the price of freedom-loving blood.

The patriotic unity of the multi-national Soviet land stands out as the most astounding social phenomenon of the twentieth century. It defeated Hitler's military forecasts. Hitler was not just a bumptious bully who ran sabre-rattling into Soviet Russia. He had calculated astutely the velocity of his own attack. Politically he had believed that his attack on the Soviet Union would burst with the first cannon shell the bond which held that vast congerie of nationalities together, and that the Soviet State would fall to pieces. Every nationality would hail him as the redeemer from tyranny. That is just

where Hitler went wrong. It was his politics which betrayed him. The sons and daughters of the Soviet Union greeted Hitler, certainly, but not with the uplifted arms of Quisling servility. It was with a deadly hail of bullets, cast from the iron will of a united people.

The oneness of the Soviet peoples, of all nationalities, cultures, creeds and colours, had been cemented with the heart's blood which all had poured together in the building of that great edifice, based on freedom, justice and equality—the Soviet Union. Thus every Soviet citizen was willing to die for it, to kill for it, so that he and the coming generations might live for it.

B. P. L. BEDI

The Huts,  
Model Town, Lahore

I thank Tass, Voks and  
other original sources from  
which the material has been  
drawn.

B. P. L. B.

## CONTENTS.

### EDITOR'S FOREWORD.

	Page
On the Soviet Anthem Alexander Alexandrov	4.
Soviet National Anthem	5.
Soviet Guerilla's Oath	7.
Oath of Allegiance of the Red Army	8.
1. Multi-national Russia.	
A vast and United Armed Camp	9
2. Stalin's call to Soviet Peoples	13.
3. To the Christian Patriots.	
His Beatitude Patriarch Sergius, Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia	16.
4. The Armenian Church the world over pledged support	17
5. Moslems ! defend your Soviet Homeland !!	
By Mufti Abdurrahman Ibn Sheikh-Zainulla Rasuli	20.
6. "We are Proud Moslem Soldiers....."	
Letter to Stalin	22
7. Kirghiz Imam's Appeal	24.
8. Patriotic Moslems ! Help the Red Army.	
An interview with the President Central Muslim Ecclesiastical Board, ninth Mufti, Rasulev Rabdrakhman	
By Alexander Shabanov	25.
9. Old Babosafed.....	
the Tajik Hafiz Folkbard to his grandson	28.
10. Heroes of Soviet Union and Heroes of Socialist Labour	28.
11. A Federation of Free Peoples.	
Secret of Soviet Strength	32.

12.	Moscow leads off: The Historic Session	...	35
13.	Ukraine on the march	...	39
14.	Friendship among the Soviet Peoples	...	40
14A.	The Woman President of the Chuvash Republic speaks	...	45
15.	Interview with Sofla Sidorova, President, Yakutian Soviet Autonomous Republic and Deputy of the Supreme Soviet,...		48
16.	"Germans wanting to enslave us"! Says North Ossetian President	...	51
17.	The Moldavians Resist	...	53
18.	Soviet Kirghizia at War	...	56
19.	Azerbaijan Fights For Freedom By Mir Bashir Kasumov	...	60
20.	Generals of Soviet Azerbaijan By Jacob Gik	...	62
21.	Komi People's War Effort	...	64
22.	People of Uzbekistan Gear all Efforts By Abduvali Muminov	...	67
23.	Interview with Rakhim Ibrahimov, President; the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the Bashkirian Autonomous Republic		70
24.	Udmurts on the Front By A. Arnoldov	...	73
25.	"The Flash of the Tajik Blades ....." Razhab Ali, The Tajik Deputy	...	75
26.	The Historic Budget Session The Supreme Soviet Meets		78
27.	The Wartime Soviet Budgets. Demonstration of People's Heroism By Professor M. Bogolepov	...	83
28.	The Victory Budget. By Mikhail Chiaureli. Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR; Stalin Prize-Winner	...	87
29.	Interview with Professor Vladimir Mysh, Renowned Soviet Surgeon		89
30.	Germans Arrive in Moscow, At Last!	...	92

31.	The Red Army:	
	Army Of Friendship Among Peoples	
	By Lieutenant Colonel L. Gatovsky	93
32.	Friendship tried in Battle.	By V. Lukyanov 98
33.	With the moving picture Camera,	
	By Elena Kuznetsova	101
34.	Guerillas in Battle: And on the March	
	By Major-General Sidor Kovpak	104
35.	"I am dying to see....."	
	By Varya Pikulischine, Belo-Russian Partisan	107
36.	Like Phantoms Everywhere	
	By Yokav. Makarenko	110
37.	The Red Army And The People	
	Alexander Serafimovich	113
38.	"Leningrad is worth dying for....."	
	Kazak Heroe's thoughts By A. Arnoldov	116
39.	Blood-Fued By A. D. Gurcovich	119
40.	The son of Mountains-Sniper Abuhazi Idrisov	120
41.	"For My Country "	
	Soviet women in Battle	
	By Colonel Valentina Grizodubova	122
42.	Soviet Women to the Fore,	126
43.	Woman Doctor at the Front,	
	By Colonel S. Bagdasaryan	128
44.	Women Partisans By Tatiana Zuyeva	131
45.	The Girl from Uzbekistan.	134
46.	Bequests of Great and Noble Mind	
	Nina Chernishevekaya	137
47.	Mother's Tears	138
48.	Zoya, The Immortal Heroine	142



*In the heat of the great battles with the bloodthirsty Nazis a new state anthem of the Soviet people was created. The new anthem describes the victorious path traversed by the peoples of our country in the 26th year of the existence of Soviet power. It is a grim and glorious path showing the progressive role of the Soviet State which opposed to the mailed fist of Hitlerite Germany, the united power of peoples of our country.*

*In the music of the anthem which I composed I strove to give an idea of the unity and friendship of the peoples in the Soviet Union who are singing the new anthem in the union republics of the Caucasus, the Ukraine and Belorussia, in republics of Central Asia and the Russian Federation. I tried to show the invincible might of the Soviet power which won freedom and independence in countless battles, in the music that was grand and flowing. The anthem links up the traditions of folksong with traditions of Russian classical music. I believe that I shall be committing no sin against truth if I say that our new state anthem arouses in the heart of every citizen of our country the feeling of national pride. This is the best reward I could have hoped for.*

**ALEXANDER ALEXANDROV**  
*Composer of the Soviet National Anthem,  
People's Artist of the U.S.S.R.*

## Soviet National Anthem

Unbreakable Union of freedom Republics  
Great Russia has welded for ever to stand,  
Created in struggle by will of the peoples,  
United and mighty, our Soviet Land.

Sing to our Motherland, glory undying,  
Bulwark of peoples in brotherhood strong  
Flag of the Soviets, peoples' flag flying  
Lead us from victory to victory on

Through tempests the sunrays of freedom have  
cheered us,  
Along the new path where great Lenin did lead  
Be true to the people, thus Stalin has reared us,  
Inspired us to labour and valorous deed

Sing to our Motherland, glory undying,  
Bulwark of peoples in happiness strong  
Flag of the Soviets, peoples' flag flying  
Lead us from vict'ry to victory on

Our army grew up in the heat of grim battles  
Barbarian invaders we'll swiftly strike down,  
In combat the fate of the future we settle,  
Our country we'll lead to eternal renown.

Sing to our Motherland, glory undying:  
Bulwark of peoples in glory so strong  
Flag of the Soviets, peoples' flag flying  
Lead us from vict'ry to victory on

## **The Soviet Guerilla's Oath**

I, as a citizen of the great Soviet Union and a true son of the heroic Russian people, vow never to lay my arms aside until the last fascist reptile on our soil has been exterminated.

I vow grimly, relentlessly and tirelessly to avenge on the enemy his desolation of our towns and villages, his murder of our women and children and the tortures, violence and outrages he has inflicted on our people.

If ever, by weakness, cowardice or deliberate malice I should break this pledge and betray the interests of my people, may I die the death of a traitor at the hands of my own comrades,

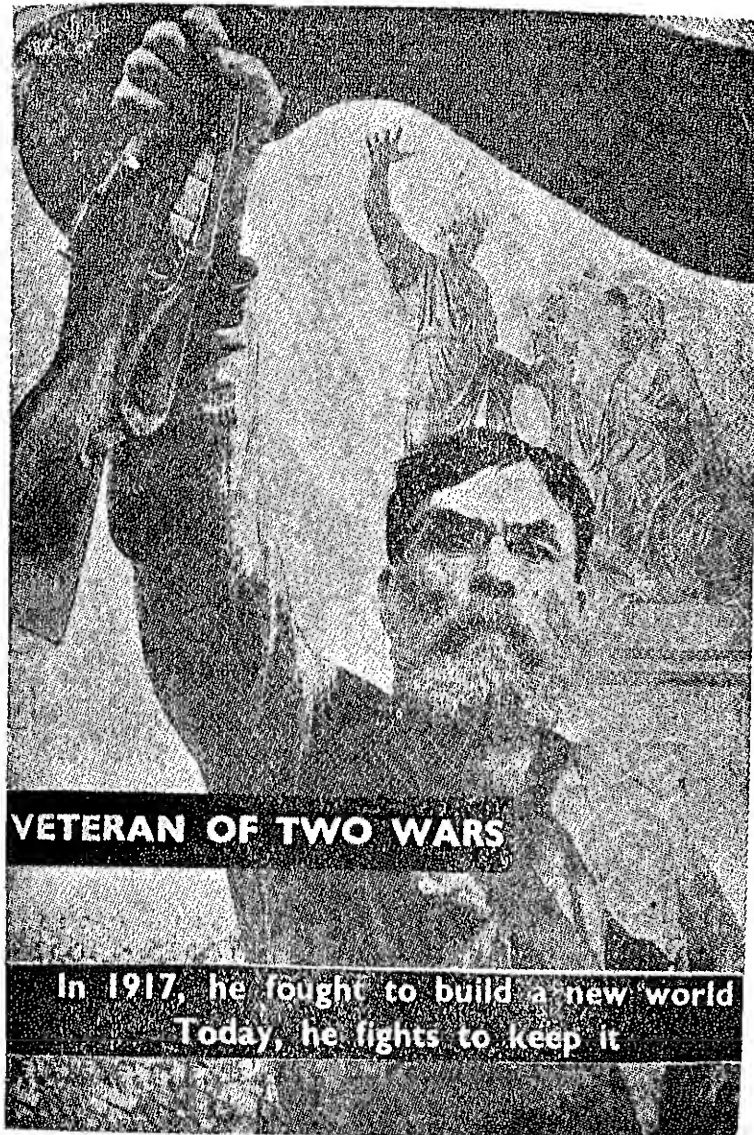
## Oath Of Allegiance Of The Workers' And Peasants' Red Army

I, A Citizen of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, joining the ranks of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, do hereby take the oath of allegiance and do solemnly vow to be an honest, brave, disciplined and vigilant fighter, to guard strictly all military and State secrets, to obey implicitly all Army regulations and orders of my commanders, commissars and superiors.

I vow to study the duties of a soldier conscientiously, to safeguard Army and national property in every way possible and to be true to my people, my Soviet Motherland and the workers' and Peasants' Government to my last breath.

I am always prepared at the order of the Workers' and Peasants' Government to come to the defence on my Motherland—the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and as a fighter of the Workers' and Peasants' Red Army, I vow to defend her courageously, skilfully, creditably and honourably, without sparing my blood and my very life to achieve complete victory over the enemy.

And if through evil intent I break this, my solemn oath, then let the stern punishment of the Soviet law, and the universal hatred and contempt of the working people, fall upon me.



**VETERAN OF TWO WARS**

In 1917, he fought to build a new world  
Today, he fights to keep it

# FOR MY COUNTRY

## I

### MULTI-NATIONAL RUSSIA.

#### A vast and United Armed Camp.

**M**ULTI-NATIONAL Russia, before the Revolution, was a backward land economically and culturally. People of Russia, particularly those of the outlying regions, had no rights, were cruelly oppressed, suffered from lack of land, unemployment and epidemics. The Revolution rid them of these afflictions, secured them the Soviet power, most democratic constitution, liberty, equal rights, helped them to develop industry and agriculture, drew them into political and economic life of the country.

This was, indeed, a generation, a resuscitation of the people—a great change from compulsory labour to labour for one's own benefit. Every working man and woman participated in the task of building and strengthening the State.

The earth and its riches, factories, and banks, transport and communications, became the property of the people. The Soviet Government of workers and peasants established control over expenditure of every pound of metal, coal and grain and their utilization for the greatest benefit to the people.

The government, under the guidance of Lenin and Stalin, engaged the best specialists and scientists to work at an unified economic plan for the state. On Lenin's initiative the electrification plan was worked out for the

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whole of Russia. Thus the plan provided not only for the restoration of the economy, but for its fundamental change—industrialization of the country.

Careful planning enabled the government to determine just what was required where and when, just what should be produced and built to secure the country's independence, to strengthen the defence of the state and create abundance of produce and manufactured goods, to eliminate unemployment, poverty and backwardness.

As a result of the October Revolution people of the Soviet Union in a short period achieved wonders. By the twentieth anniversary of the Soviet Power in 1937, the production of steel, basis of all industrialization, had been increased fourfold as compared with 1913. During the same period the country was supplied with sufficient fuel: the production of coal was increased by 4.3 times, of oil by 3.2 times. A vast network of power plants had been built and Lenin's plan of electrification exceeded 2.5 times. New railway, sea and river routes were opened. Forces of nature, dormant for centuries, were harnessed to needs of the Soviet people.

Russia, which had had no machine building industry of its own, became a first class machine building power. The Soviet people built the largest automobile, tractor, aviation and machine tool building enterprises in Europe. For the first time, too, they acquired mighty chemical and electrical enterprises. Supplying all the spheres of economy with requisite Soviet made machines, the people rendered their country economically independent. Thanks to the extensive scientific research and prospecting, industries were supplied with all requisite technical equipment and raw materials.

The October Revolution stilled peasants' age-old hunger for land. The initial measure of the Soviet Government was to transfer without compensation three hundred and seventy million acres of land to peasants who had had little or none. This was the most important measure

adopted by the Soviet Government. Within a few years when peasants had convinced themselves that small individual farming could not secure prosperity, the organization of collective farms was begun. Peasants then reorganized their economy of their own accord, joined collective farms and by collective organization of production and also by mechanization of agriculture, achieved high productivity of excellent harvests and improved the standard of living. Owing to industrialization, peasants received hundreds of thousands of tractors, harvester combines and other agricultural machines from the state during the Stalin Five Year Plan periods.

This greatly lightened their labour and secured bumper crops on collective farm fields.

Advantages of collective farming grew particularly evident during the great Patriotic War. Though so many of young farmers were called to colours during the war, Soviet villages considerably increased their sown area and fully supplied the front and rear with produce.

\* \* \*

On June 22nd 1941, Nazi invaders, saturated with the poison of their racial theories, the idea of Germanic domination of the world, and drunk with easy victories in Europe, fell suddenly upon the Soviet land from the Barents to the Black Sea, thereby they interrupted peaceful life of Soviet people as also their creative labour.

The suddenness of their attack on the Soviet Union gave the fascist invaders a temporary advantage. The enemy seized vast territories of the Soviet land, mercilessly annihilated millions of innocent people, women, children and the aged. Millions were carried off to German bondage. The enemy pillaged and destroyed many cultural institutions and industrial enterprises of Soviet people. Germans hoped to secure their position on the Soviet soil with fire and sword and thereby to enjoy fruits of Soviet labour. The people, however, had tasted fruits of their own labour in free and happy Soviet land and could not resign themselves to slavery.

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The gains of the October Revolution, the wealth that had been amassed in twenty-five years of creative labour of millions, were now gravely endangered. The existence of the Soviet State, the fate of the country and all Soviet peoples was at stake. This was bluntly and boldly set forth by Joseph Stalin on July 3rd, 1941.

Responding to Joseph Stalin's appeal, workers in the menaced districts dismantled and evacuated under enemy fire the largest of their industrial enterprises to the east, reassembled them on their new locations in extremely difficult conditions of winter. Within two to three months after the evacuation, these same plants were supplying the Red Army tanks, aircraft, cannon and various other war materials. During the war many new and large blast furnaces and plants were built for production of armaments, ammunition and various army equipment. The task of their erection was truly heroic.

Those who remained on the territory temporarily in the clutches of the enemy, did their utmost to render conditions unbearable to Germans. Organizing their foot and mounted detachments, armed with weapons taken from Germans, they withdrew to forests and waged furious struggle against the enemy. The hostilities acquired the nature of a people's war.

The greatest of all wars has tested the strength of Soviet power, its system of economy, its material achievements and morale of its people.

The Soviet Union became a vast and united army. The war displayed the monolithic unity of the people and their state, and complete harmony of interests between the two. People have set up their own state, have themselves strengthened it for themselves, defending it with all means and forces at their command. Therein lies the strength and the invincibility of the Soviet State and the Red Army. It is this which has shattered Hitler's monstrous machine though he had been systematic

preparing Germany for war against the Soviet Union for an entire decade, though he had easily gained ascendancy over nearly all Europe and was thereby able to pit nearly the total industrial might and armaments of Europe against the Soviet Union.

One of the most important results of the October Revolution was the Red Army created by the Soviet peoples. Defending the country of socialism, the Soviet troops were defending the cause of progress and democracy the world over, against fascism, the blackest force of reaction.

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## II

### STALLIN'S CALL TO SOVIET PEOPLES.

*July 3rd 1941.*

Comrades, citizens, and sisters, men of our Army and Navy.

My words are addressed to you, dear friends,

The perfidious military attack by Hitlerite Germany on our fatherland begun on June 22 is continuing. In spite of the heroic resistance of the Red Army, and although the enemy's finest divisions and finest air force units have already been smashed and have met their doom on the field of battle, the enemy continues to push forward, hurling fresh forces into the fray. Hitler's troops have succeeded in capturing Lithuania, a considerable part of Latvia, the western part of Byelorussia and part of Western Ukraine. The fascist aircraft are extending the range of their operations, bombing Murmansk, Orsha, Mogilev, Smolensk, Kiev, Odessa, Sevastopol. Grave danger overhangs our country.

That is why the whole of our valiant Red Army, the whole of our valiant Navy, all the falcons of our Air Force, all the people of our country, all the finest men and women of Europe, America and Asia, and finally all the finest men and women of Germany, denounce the treacherous acts of the German fascists, sympathize with the Soviet Government, approve its conduct, and see that ours is a just cause, that the enemy will be defeated, and that we are bound to win.

What is required to put an end to the danger which overhangs our country and what measures must be taken to smash the enemy?

Above all it is essential that our people, the Soviet people, should appreciate the full immensity of the danger that threatens our country

and abandon all complacency, non-chalance and the mentality of peaceful constructive work that was so natural before the war, but which is fatal today, when war has radically changed the whole situation. The enemy is cruel and implacable. He is out to seize our lands watered by the sweat of our brows, to seize our grain and oil secured by the labour of our hands. He is out to restore the rule of the landlords, to restore Tsarism, to destroy the national culture and the national existence of the Russians, Ukrainians, Byelorussians, Lithuanians, Latvians, Estonians, Uzbeks, Tatars, Moldavians, Georgians, Armenians, Azerbaijanians and the other free peoples of the Soviet Union, to Germanize them to turn them into the slaves of German princes and barons. Thus, the issue is one of life and death for the Soviet state, of life and death for the peoples of the U. S. S. R. The issue is whether the people of the Soviet Union shall be free or fall into slavery. The Soviet people must realize this and abandon all nonchalance, they must mobilize themselves and reorganize all their work on a new, wartime footing, where there can be no mercy to the enemy.

\* \* \*

Further, there must be no room in our ranks for whippersnappers and cowards, for panic-mongers and deserters, our people must know no fear in the fight and must selflessly join our Patriotic War of liberation, our war against the fascist enslavers. Lenin, the great founder of our state, used to say that the chief virtues of Soviet men and women must be courage, valour, fearlessness in struggle, readiness to fight together with the people, against the enemies of our country. These splendid Bolshevik virtues must become the virtues of millions and millions of the Red Army, of the Red Navy, of all the peoples of the Soviet Union.

*All our work must be immediately reorganised on a war footing, everything must be subordinated to the interests of the front and the task of organizing the defeat of the enemy.* The peoples of the Soviet Union now see that there is no taming German fascism in its savage fury and hatred of our native country, which has ensured all its working people labour in freedom and prosperity. The peoples of the Soviet Union must rise against the enemy and defend their rights and their land.

The Red Army, Red Navy and all citizens of the Soviet Union must defend every inch of Soviet soil, must fight to their last drop of blood for our towns and villages, must display the daring, initiative and mental alertness that are characteristic of our people.

We must organize all round assistance to the Red Army, ensure powerful reinforcements for its ranks and the supply of everything it requires, we must organize the rapid transport of troops and military freight and extensive aid to the wounded.

We must strengthen the Red Army's rear, subordinating all our work to this cause, all our industries must work with greater intensity, to produce more rifles, machineguns, artillery, bullets, shells, and aeroplanes, we must organize the guarding of factories, power stations, telephone and telegraph communications, and arrange effective air raid protection in all localities.

*In case of a forced retreat of Red Army units, all rolling stock must be evacuated, the enemy must not be left a single railway car, not a single pound of grain or gallon of fuel. The collective farmers must drive off all their cattle and turn over their grain to the safekeeping of the state, authorities, for transportation to the rear. All valuable property, including non-ferrous metals, grain and fuel, that cannot be withdrawn must be destroyed without fail.*

*In areas occupied by the enemy, guerrilla units, mounted and foot must be formed, sabotage group must be organised to combat enemy units to foment guerilla warfare everywhere, blow up bridges and roads, damage telephone and telegraph lines, set fire to forests, stores and transports. In occupied regions conditions must be made unbearable for the enemy and all his accomplices. They must be hounded and annihilated at every step, and all their measures frustrated.*

*Comrades, our forces are numberless. The overweening enemy will soon learn this to his cost. Side by side with the Red Army many thousands of workers, collective farmers and intellectuals are rising to fight the enemy aggressor. The masses of our people will rise up in their millions. The working people of Moscow and Leningrad have already commenced to form a vast popular militia in support of the Red Army. Such a popular militia must be raised in every city which is in danger of enemy invasion, all the working people must be roused to defend with their lives their freedom, their honour, their country in this Patriotic War against German fascism.*

***All Peoples of the Soviet Union, regardless of Religion and Race, responded with their blood.***



### III

## TO THE CHRISTIAN PATRIOTS.

**His Beatitude Patriarch Sergius,  
Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia.**

ON the very first day of the war June 22, 1941, Patriarch Sergius addressed a message to the clergy and to the congregations of the orthodox church in which he said :

"Our orthodox church has always shared the fate of the nation. It has borne its trials and has been comforted by its successes. Nor will it abandon the nation now. It calls down the blessings of Heaven on its coming feats of arms."

And, in everyone of his messages and addresses, the Patriarch explained to the religious the lofty duty of a Christian patriot. He fortified them in staunchness and courage and cheered the suffering.

At his call collection of funds was made to build a tank column named after Dmitry Donskoy, favourite hero in Russian history who defeated the Tatars under Khan Mamai. He zealously advocated aid to children rendered orphans by the Nazis. Collections in aid of the Defence Fund and the wounded soldiers always had his blessing.

*His words :*

"May the Lord bless all those who, by their prayers, their sympathy, their labour and donations aid our gallant defenders" have become an injunction for every religious Russian.

Patriarch Sergius, a man of great erudition and breadth of view, was respected not only by the Russian clergy ; his prestige was also unshakable among patriarchs of other orthodox churches.

"The ancient orthodox east and the entire orthodox world shudder with us at the horrors of the fascist invasion, with us bless the self-sacrificing feats of the Russian army and with us zealously pray for our final victory over the fascist hordes" he wrote in March 1942.

---

#### IV

### The Armenian Church the world over pledged support.

THE noted Armenian poet, Avetik Issakwan, interviewed the acting catholic archbishop, Géorgi Brekchyan, primate of the Armenian church. The meeting took place in Echmiadzin, the seventeenth century residence of catholics under the flowered eastern frescoes of the hall. While the eminent predecessors were present and looked on from canvases lining the walls, the poet put the churchman three questions.

Isaakyan's first question was how the response of Armenians abroad to the acting catholic's appeal published some time ago in the Soviet press was. Archbishop Chrekchyan replied: "The calls and appeals which we have issued in connection with the present war to Armenians the world over has found a whole-hearted response. In America, Europe and the east Armenian colonies were arranged meeting amidst an enthusiastic upsurge of the elected committees for rendering material aid to the Soviet people in their patriotic war against the German fascist invaders. To help our glorious Red Army they have forwarded money contributions for building a tank column named after David of Sasun as well as for medical supplies.

These donations have been sent in from New York, Fresno and Buenos Aires: Syrian cities of Cyprus, Tavriz, Isfahan and other places. The collection of funds is continuing without any let up. Acknowledgments will be published in an early issue of the *Echmiadzin* organ of the church."

"What concrete activity does the Armenian church conduct regarding its war work?" was the second question. The answer was "Since the war broke out we have repeatedly addressed ourselves to Armenians and Armenian churches. Prominent among these appeals is a call to Armenians the world over. The Church has urged the Armenian people and Armenian soldier to fight selflessly for their great country to defend its sanctuaries with their lives and to hold high the honour of their country and people.

"This, no doubt, has played its part in instilling our soldiers strength to perform feats of valour, and in consolidating devotion and unity in the rear.

"Aware of its duty to the country, the holy church has donated in the very first months of the war, a large

number of silver and bronze articles, of archaeological or historical value, precious Panagia studded with diamonds and other valuable platinum and diamond articles to the value of eight hundred thousand rubles, as well as seventy-five thousands rubles and a thousand English pounds sterling in cash for the construction of David of Sasun tank column. On that occasion we had the great honour of receiving a telegram of thanks by our great leader Marshal Stalin to the clergy of *Echmiadzin* and the Armenian church people". The third question was, "How do the acting catholics regard the formation of council on questions pertaining to the Armenian church at the council of People's Commissars, Armenian SSR?" Isaakyan was told: The establishment of the council in church affairs is an expression of the benevolent attitude of the Soviet Government towards the Armenian church. This measure helps in the solution of questions pertaining both to the economic and cultural activity of the Armenian church.

"Thanks to the council's assistance, the *Echmiadzin* calender has been speeded, and preparatory work has been completed for the publications of monthly periodical *Echmiadzin*. The *Echmiadzin* will be religious and of a patriotic nature and will aim at improving the ties between the *Echmiadzin* and the Armenian colonies abroad, acquainting the public with the activities of the *Echmiadzin*, the history of the Armenian church and the most important memorials of Armenian antiquity.

"An important task of the *Echmiadzin* Ecclesiastical Board is training churchmen for higher Ecclesiastical offices, as well as intermediary categories of clergymen. This we can do by setting up a theological academy: on this question we have approached the government through the council on church affairs.

In conclusion, "An evidence of the spiritual uplift among the Armenians abroad and their profound esteem

for the great Russian people and Joseph Stalin, brilliant leader of Soviet peoples " the acting catholics cited a telegram from a meeting of representative Armenians in America. The message read :

" We wish to express our filial love and gratitude to all the Armenians and the Armenian church. The meeting begs you to accept this token of our highest regard for Stalin, wise leader of the Soviet Union, thanks to whose energetic leadership the Red Army is performing miracles in defence of the country. We ask you also to convey to the government of Soviet Armenia our loyalty and fraternal sentiments. We are prepared to render all possible assistance in safe-guarding our New Armenia".

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V

## MOSLEMS ! DEFEND YOUR SOVIET HOMELAND !!

BY MUFTI ABDURRAHMAN IBN-SHRIK-ZAINULLA RASULI  
Chairman of the Central Ecclesiastical Administration  
of Moslems in the USSR

When Hitler launched his perfidious attack against the Soviet Union the Moslem clergy of the U. S. S. R. appealed to their fellow-worshippers to rise up against fascism and to aid the government and the Red Army in every way possible. Moslems issue such an appeal when an enemy attempts to seize their native land. The Moslem religion teaches that it is the sacred duty of every Moslem to take up arms against an enemy.

When the war drew near the Central Asian republics, one of the statesmen of the Uzbek republic called together the oldest Moslems, among whom were many past the century mark, and asked them what course the Moslems would follow now that the German

were approaching their native land. One of the old men replied that his course of action would be that of a watchman in a beautiful orchard into which a robber tried to make his way.

In their sermons the Mufti and the Imams called upon their followers to aid their country. In the appeal to Allah which is made before every service, a prayer is said for the health of Stalin, for victory in this war and for the strengthening of the Soviet state.

Moslems in the Soviet devotedly responded to the appeal of the Moslem clergy. They contributed large sums to the Defence Fund. I personally contributed fifty thousand rubles to the Defence Fund. The Moslems and the Moslem clergy in the USSR collected funds for building a tank column and sent trainloads of gifts to the men at the front.

The Moslem clergy also issued an appeal to all people of the Moslem faith after the atrocities perpetrated by the Germans in the Crimea and North Caucasus became known from letters sent in by Moslems of these regions.

In all the villages which they occupied the Germans closed schools, confiscated cattle and murdered innocent Moslem civilians. In the Kahardinian republic, for instance, the Germans shot Lulya Karashayev, an eighty-five-year old man, Chamkiat Karashyeva, a seventy-nine-year-old woman and other civilians. Khamid Dybalev, a mullah was also shot to death by the Germans.

Wherever the Germans set foot they forbade all religious services (in the village of Seitmer, for instance, they beat the mullah), destroyed libraries of holy books, demanded that Moslems leave off wearing their national dress and forced parents to give german names to their newborn children.

Representatives of Moslem clergy from Bashkiria, Moscow, Kazakhstan, the Urals, Siberia and other regions gathered in Ufa in May 1942 where they issued an appeal to all Moslems to help the Soviet government and the Red Army in the fight against the German invaders. Similar meetings of the clergy in other districts also issued such appeals. They were published in many languages of the peoples of the Soviet Union and distributed among people of Moslem faith. The appeal issued by the Moslem clergy of the Transcaucasus contained the following words. "In view of the unprecedented atrocities committed by the Germans and guided by the teachings of the Koran, the Moslem Clergy of the Soviet Union appeal to all Moslems to rally to the defence of their country, the Soviet Union, where all peoples are equal, where there is no enmity and discord among peoples, where all without exception are accorded complete freedom of conscience."

On behalf of the Moslem clergy and worshippers the appeal was signed by Sheik-Ul-Islam-Ali Zade Akhund-Aga, chairman of the Ecclesiastical Administration of Moslems in the Transcaucasus, Mufti Effendi Zade Ibrahim and other eminent figures of the Moslem clergy in the U. S. S. R.

## VI

### "We are Proud Moslem Soldiers....."

#### Letter to Stalin.

THE following letter from Kurultai (Congress) of Moslem Clergy and Faithful of Trans-Caucasia addressed to the Supreme Commander Marshal Stalin, Head of the Soviet Government, was published in the Moscow press on May 28, 1944.

Highly revered Joseph Vissarionovich.

In the name of Almighty Allah and with a deep love in our hearts we, representatives of the Moslem clergy and Faithful of Trans-Caucasia, gathered at the Holy Kurultai in Baku address these words of sincere respect and benediction to you, Godsent wise head of the Soviet Government, the supreme Commander of the Armed Forces and a great defender of peoples from the fascist miscreants. For three years already people of the Mighty Soviet Union, Moslems among their number, have been waging a sacred struggle against Hitler Germany, the sworn enemy of all mankind. That contemptible miscreant, Hitler, with his blood-stained hands has destroyed the wealth built up by mankind in the course of centuries and has harboured designs against secret reliquaries of Moslems.

The Moslem clergy of Trans-Caucasia, from the first days of this great Patriotic War, gave their blessing to their other Moslems in the performance of martial deeds, and called upon them together, with all peoples of our Soviet country, staunchly to defend the sacred land of our fathers. *We are proud Moslem soldiers* who are ruthlessly smiting the enemy and in whose ranks on the field of battle are fighting sons and brothers, delegates to our Congress.

Dear Joseph Vissarionovich, the Moslem clergy and the faithful of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia are supremely devoted to our country and its leader; they are wholeheartedly supporting our victorious Red Army with every means in our power and pray day and night to Great Allah to inflict stern punishment on the impious Hitlerite Assassins and liberate the peoples from fascist slavery. May the most high Allah bless the victorious path of our gallant fighters and help them to obliterate the fascist scum from the face of the earth for ever. We pray to Great Allah to grant you health and long life. Amen!



Signed on behalf of the Congress of Moslem clergy and Faithful of Trans-Caucasia by the Presidium of the Congress. Ali Zade Ahund Aga, Chairman Convening Committee of the Congress; Rasulev Abdurahman Binshei Hzei Nulla, Chairman Moslem Ecclesiastical Board; Pishnaamaz Zade Ahund Faradjulla, Member Convening Committee; Efendiyev Ibrahim Efendi, Member Convening Committee; Babahanov Ziyautdin Kary Kazy of Moslem Ecclesiastical Board Central Asia and Kazakhstan; Nastrutdinov Halilrahman, Muhtasib of Moscow and Gorky Regions, Member Council of Central Ecclesiastical Board Imam of Moscow Mosque, Adaze Yunus Shugeibovich Member Convening Committee Adjaristan Ecclesiast; Bairamov Mola Mirza Alexander, Convening Committee Armenian Moslem Ecclesiast; Ihundov Molla Abdutahim Imam o Baku Mosque; Mameshkov Molla Ramzan Efendi, Imam o Zakatali mosque Azerbaijan Republic; Kadyrov Kiyamutdin Muhtasib of Tatarastan, member Council Moslem Central Ecclesiastical Board Imam Kazan Mosque; Grebekov Hizr Kady Daghestan Ecclesiast Umarbekov Zufarbek Mahsun Uzbek Ecclesiast; Beridze Rasim Suleiman Ogly Adjaristan Ecclesiast, Umudov Umud Efendi Osman Ogli Azerbaijan Ecclesiast; Faradjev Abbas Kerbalai Aoli Ogli Armenian Moslem Ecclesiast, Yusupov Yarulla Muhtasib of Penza and Kuivyshev Regions Member Council Moslem Central Ecclesiastical Board; Urdashev Dovgat Daghestan Ecclesiast.

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## VII

### Kirghiz Imam's Appeal.

THE Kirghiz Imam, Shakirkhodzhayev Alimkhan Tyure, the first Mussulman of the Kirghiz republic to donate 100,000 rubles to the Defence Fund, made

statement about the progress or the rally of all efforts by the republic's Mussulman population for the struggle against fascism.

He declared that the unanimous support of the Red Army by the Kirghiz Mussulmans is due not only to their religious faith, but to many other political as well as economic reasons.

"I, spiritual leader of the Kirghiz Mussulmans hereby declare that only under the Soviet Government did we Kirghiz live like human beings. We know that the victory of Germany would mean the loss of all rights of the Kirghiz people which have been granted to them by the Soviet system of Government, and would mean return to slavery: which would be a hundred times more terrible than that of the Tsarist regime. For this reason we blessed all the Moslems who abide by the words of the *Koran*, "If your motherland has been attacked, you must strike back with all the force you can muster, and sacrifice all your health".

Two sons of Imam are at the front, one is a lieutenant and the other a student in a military school.

"Every Mussulman must clearly understand the meaning of these words of the *Koran*. Your aid in the struggle against the enemy is equivalent to your participation in the battle", declared Imam Shiakirkhadzhayev.

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## VIII

### **Patriotic Moslems! Help the Red Army.**

**(An interview with the President, Central Moslem Ecclesiastical Board, ninth Mufti, Rasulev Rabdrakhman)**

by

ALEXANDER SHABANOV

**S**INCE the beginning of this patriotic war of the Soviet people against German Fascism, faithful Moslems

have been taking active part in the defence of the country from the treacherous enemy. Both in the ranks of the Red Army and at the homefront they, together with the entire Soviet people, devote all their efforts to the cause of victory over the hordes of Hitler, the hated enemy of all faithful Moslems.

After the appeal to all Moslems, adopted at the conference of the representatives of clergy and learned men in Ufa on the 15th May, 1942, it became clear to every faithful that Hitlerism has nothing in common with the Moslem creed. On the contrary, it is the most rabid and implacable enemy of all faithful Moslems. Murder of defenceless women, aged persons and children, rapine, devastation of villages and cities, unheard of outrages against the religious sentiment—that is what Fascism has brought to regions of the Soviet Union temporarily under its sway.

In the end of February, 1943, Mufti Rasulev Habdrakhman addressed a new message to all Moslems living in the U.S.S.R. saying,

"Dear brother Moslems! greetings on behalf of the Central Ecclesiastical Board. Our children and Kinsfolk are valiantly fighting against the enemy at the front. It is the duty of all of us, remaining in the rear, to help them in every way." Performing this duty, the President of the Central Ecclesiastical Board, Habdrakhman Rasulev, personally contributed 50000 rubles for the construction of a tank-column. "It is your duty, you faithful Moslems, also to make contributions, as much as you can afford, to build arms for the Red Army."

This message was read in the mosques and at the meetings of faithful Moslems. The faithful warmly responded. They were still further inspired to intensify their work for the front and help the Red Army by a message of thanks sent by Joseph Stalin to Rasulev Habdrakhman for his contribution.

All that was told me by the ninth Mufti, Rasulev

Habdrakhman during my interview on the 16th April in his study in the Central Ecclesiastical Board at Ufa.

Here reports come about the funds collected by Moslems in various towns and villages of the Soviet Union. In Ufa Rasulev Habdrakhman formed a special committee to collect funds for the construction of a tank-column. During a brief period collections among the Moslems here yielded a sum sufficient for the construction of several tanks. In Kazan contributions by Moslems aggregated about 100,000 rubles. Mulla Ramsutdinov Gafar, the representative of the Central Ecclesiastical Board at Semipalatinsk reported considerable contributions in cash and presents for the Red Army in Kazakhstan. The group of the Faithful of village Salekh Chishim, district Bashkir, autonomous Soviet Republic, brought to the Ecclesiastical Board 21600 rubles. Moslems of village Ermie, in the same district, sent 1800 rubles.

"I think," said Rasulev Habdrakhman, "that the contributions of the Faithful for the construction of tank-column will total at least a million rubles."

Besides cash Moslems contributed many articles and agricultural produce for the Red Army. The faithful Moslems of one of the collective-farms Zhalshi, in the Taran district—Kustana region—contributed hundred pounds of wheat to the Red Army Fund.

"Collections of funds, things and produce still continue. We will petition the government to accept these contributions," said Rasulev Habdrakhman, "despite the fact that the Soviet Government, on the 7th April had requested the population and organisations to cease sending contributions to the Red Army Fund in connection with the forthcoming War Loan. Faithful Moslems have been and remain loyal to their country. The *Koran* teaches the 'faithful!' to fight on God's road against all who fight you because God does not love the unjust."

Kill your enemies wherever you find them ; drive them from whence they have driven you. ' God will give you relief. He is with the staunch in battle. He will not leave your feats unrewarded ! "

Fighting with arms in hand at the front, working with will in factories and on farms, faithful Moslems fervently pray to Allah for the Red Army's victory over the wicked and hated enemy—Hitlerism.

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IX

### Old Babosafed..... the Tajik Hafiz Folkbard to his grandson.

WHEN old Babosafed, the Tajik Hafiz, bade farewell to his grandson, who was leaving for the front, he took him to an ancient mound, embraced him silently breast to breast and knee to knee in accordance with the age-old Muslim custom, picked up a stone from the mound, placed it in the young man's hand and said :

"My grandson will pardon me if I, an old man, am behind the times, but wherever you go in the valley bend low in obeisance over the Darya-i-Vaksh, the Wild One, and drink from its pure waters until you are filled. May the stone from the mound and the waters of the Wild One impart great strength to you, and give you the joys of our days—the days in which you are living : the days of the Soviet power. Never surrender to the enemy these flowering fields of the Vaksh Valley, these prosperous *kishlaks* (villages) that grew together out of the stones of these once barren mounds."

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X

### Heroes of Soviet Union and Heroes of Socialist Labour.

THE Soviet state highly values and honours heroism, valour, initiative and self-sacrificing labour for the

good of the people of the country and mankind and it bestows orders and other distinctions on those people who most merit it.

In 1918 the first Soviet order, the Order of the Red Banner, was established for "outstanding bravery and valour on the battlefield."

With change to peaceful construction another order was instituted at the end of 1920, the Order of the Red Banner of Labour for "outstanding selflessness, initiative, and industriousness discipline in the solution of economic problems."

Later as economic, cultural and defence construction developed other awards were established: the highest award of the Order of Lenin in 1930; the Order of Red Star in 1930; the Order of Badge of Honour in 1935, and medals for valour, for meritorious service in action, for valiant labour and for distinguished labour in 1938.

During the war of Soviet people against Hitlerite Germany, special orders were instituted: the Order of the Patriotic War and Orders of Suvorov, Kutuzov, Alexander Nevsky, Bogdan Khmel'nitsky—named after the great military leaders of Russian and Ukrainian peoples and also the orders of victory and glory. Military medals were also struck in honour of the extra-ordinary staunchness and valour shown in the heroic defence of the cities of Leningrad, Stalingrad, Odessa and Sevastopol.....

The highest distinctions in the Soviet Union are the titles of Hero of the Soviet Union and the Hero of the Socialist Labour. The Hero of the Soviet Union is decorated with the Order of Lenin, gold star medal and receives the certificate of honour from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, USSR.

The Hero of the Socialist Labour is awarded with the Order of Lenin, hammer and sickle, gold medal and certificate of honour from the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, USSR.

For his second outstanding feat the Hero of the Soviet Union is awarded, a second gold star medal and a bronze bust of the hero is set up in his native city in the commemoration of his deed. For his third heroic deed the Hero of the Soviet Union is awarded, a third gold star medal and to mark his heroic feats a bronze bust is set up at the Palace of Soviets in Moscow.

\* \* \*

The title of Hero of the Socialist Labour was first bestowed upon the leader of the peoples of the USSR, Stalin. The next to receive this title were V. Degtyarev, S. Ilyushin, A. Yakovlev and other outstanding inventors and designers of new arms and aircraft.

On September 30, 1943, the title of Hero of the Socialist Labour was bestowed on V. Molotov, L. Beria, G. Malenkov, A. Mikoyan and other prominent leaders of the Soviet State and Bolshevik Party and Stalin's comrades-in-arms, who have rendered exceptional service in arming and equipping the Red Army under difficult conditions of wartime.

The title of Hero of the Soviet Union was first bestowed in 1934 on the glorious fliers who saved and transported to the mainland the crew of Chelyuskin after they abandoned their sinking ship in the Arctic Ocean.

One of the first heroes of the Soviet Union was that great flier of our times Valeri Chkalov who is famous for his flight from Moscow to North America *via* North Pole.

The title of Hero of the Soviet Union was given to the glorious conquerors of the Arctic, I. Papanin, E. Krenkel, P. Shirshov and E. Fedorov who in 1937 lived in a tent on the drifting icefloe.

On September 24th, 1938, three Soviet heroines P. Grizodubova, P. Osipenko, M. Raskova took off on a non-stop flight from Moscow to the Far East covering a distance of 6,450 kilometres and breaking record for flying both straight and broken lines.

They too were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The Patriotic War of the Soviet people against Hitlerite invaders has brought to fore the unexampled heroism of the masses.

The feat of Nikolai Gastello who crashed his burning plane into an enemy column is well-known. He was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. Twenty-eight panfilovites (guardsmen of the division of Major General I. Panfilov) who boldly withstood a savage onslaught of fifty fascist tanks and at the cost of their lives stopped the enemy near Moscow are also in the glorious role of the heroes of the Soviet Union.

Twice-hero of the Soviet Union, A. Molodchy, Soviet ace, the daring son of the Ukrainian people, has bombed Koenigsberg, Berlin, Budapest and has been striking at the Germans unerringly, destroying their vital military objects, their troops, their bases and their trains. Another Soviet ace, twice-hero of the Soviet Union, A. Pokryshkin emerged victorious in forty single-handed combats with the enemy.

In December 1941 the Germans executed a young partisan girl "Tanya" in a village in the Moscow region. She is dauntless Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya. The undying glory of Zoya has spread far and wide over the entire Soviet land. She is awarded posthumously the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

An outstanding example of loyalty to his country is guardsman Alexander Matrosov who with his body closed in a German fascist fortification ensured success of the military operations of his Red Army unit. Matrosov was posthumously awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Intrepid forcing of the Dnieper river by the Red Army has called forth further scores and hundreds of new heroes of the Soviet Union.



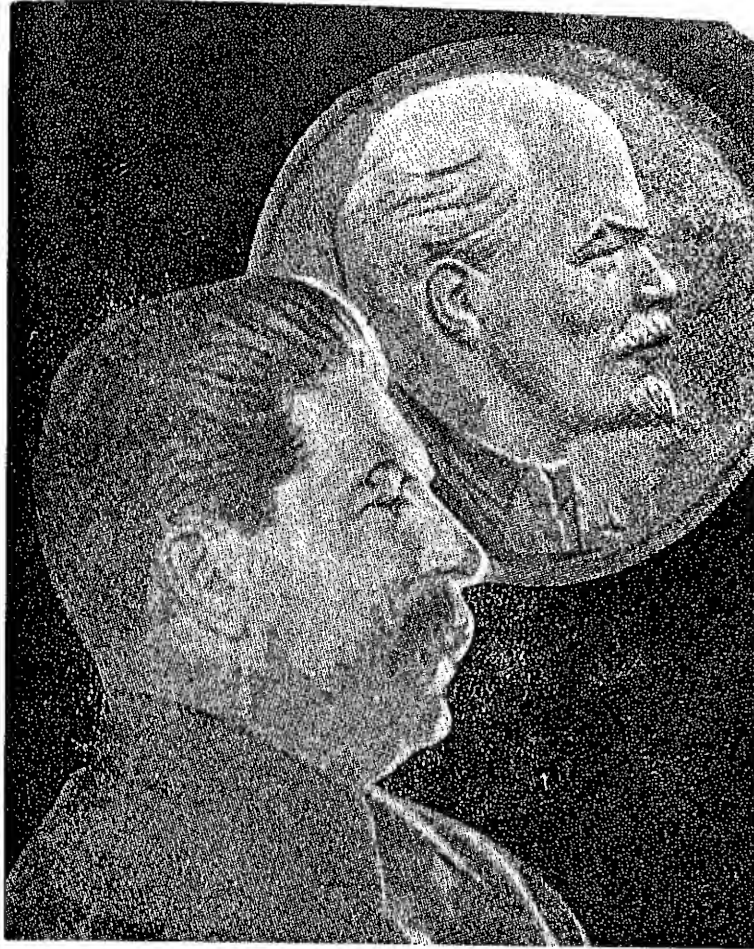
## A Federation of Free Peoples.

### Secret of Soviet Strength.

THE October Revolution proclaimed the equality and sovereignty of the peoples of Russia and gave them the full right to self-determination. On the basis of this right the Russian peoples formed their Soviet republics which, by their own wish decided to become a federal state in order to defend their independence against foreign aggression and to build their new economic and social system side by side. Thus the Soviet Union was established on the basis of agreement among Soviet republics in December 1922.

All members of the Soviet Federation are national states. Each member of the federation of Russia, the Ukraine, Latvia, Uzbekistan etc represents one nationality, is a republic consisting in main of the given nationality. The national principle is strictly observed in the Soviet Federation. In order to organize republics and regions homogeneous with regard to nationality, the Soviet Government did not hesitate to break up the old administrative divisions and boundary.

The best example of this is to be found in Central Asia. In tsarist times there existed here the Turkestan Governor Generalship under the direct administration of a Russian Governor-General and two native vassal Khanates—Bokhara and Khiva. However, the borders of these territories in no way coincided with the ethnographic demarcation line. the Governorship of Turkestan, Bokhara and Khiva were all inhabited by many nationalities. After the Revolution Soviet states built on the national principle were formed on the site of these territories. Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Kirghizia. The Soviet people attach great importance to the observance of this principle seeing in it the fulfilment of one of the basic demands of democracy and a means of eliminating strife and conflict



LENIN AND STALIN

*The Light and Strength behind Russia's rebirth and the survival struggle.*

between nationalities. Of course, it must be understood that with any border lines the existence of a small national minority is inevitable in any one or other of the states. Therefore, Soviet laws stress the rights of national minorities and do not permit any discrimination whatsoever with regard to persons belonging to national minorities.

The Soviet Federal State arose on the basis of voluntary association among various nationalities and it has retained this voluntary nature, right freely to secede from the USSR being reserved to every constituent republic and guaranteed by the Soviet Constitution.

Soviet federalism is based on absolute equality among members of the federation. Soviet republics differ greatly from each other in the size of their territories and their population, in their historical past, their language and culture. Side by side with the huge Russian Federative Republic spreading from the shores of the Baltic Sea to the coast of Pacific Ocean with a population exceeding 100,000,000, the Soviet Union includes little Esthonia situated along the coast of the Gulf of Finland in the Baltic Sea and having a population of 2,100,000.

Three republics of the Soviet Union are inhabited by large Slav peoples, Russians, Ukrainians and Belo Russians. Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and other central Asian republics are inhabited by eastern peoples. But all these republics enjoy equal rights. Absolute equality of rights and duties among all Union Republics is a firm principle of Soviet Federation. All the Union Republics are represented by an equal number of Deputies in the Soviet of Nationalities, one of the two chambers of the USSR's Supreme Soviet. Each of the sixteen Union Republics—regardless of the size and population—elects 25 deputies to the Soviet of nationalities.

It should be added here that this federal chamber, which is a true representative of all Soviet peoples, consists of delegates not only from the constituent republics but

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It should be added here that this federal chamber, which is a true representative of all Soviet peoples, consists of delegates not only from the constituent republics but

also from nationalities organized into autonomous republics and regions contained in one or other Union Republics and even from national areas inhabited by small peoples or tribes not exceeding five to ten thousand persons. According to the constitution, each Autonomous Republic sends eleven of its Deputies to the Soviet of Nationalities, each Autonomous Region five and each National Area one Deputy.

The Union Republics enjoy wide rights in the Soviet Union. Each of them within bounds of the General All-Union plan of national economy directs the economy of the republic with the exception of those key industries the development of which is of primary importance for the economy and defence of the Union as a whole. They administer all matters connected with education, public health and social maintenance. The Union republics issue their own laws on questions of labour, marriage and family guardianship etc. Each constituent republic has its own code of civil and penal laws.

The Union Republics are Sovereign states possessing absolute rights to self-determination. The borders and territory of any Union Republic may not be altered without its consent. According to the law passed in 1944 the Union Republics now have the power to enter into direct relations with foreign countries, to conclude agreements with them and to exchange representatives. Some of the Union Republics have already made use of this right and have concluded agreements with the neighbouring states on questions of special interest to them (for example, Soviet Ukraine, Belorussia and Lithuania have concluded an agreement with Poland on voluntary and mutual repatriation of the citizens of these respective countries).

The Union Republics are now also organising republican military formations.

The Soviet Federation represents mutual aid and co-operation among peoples—those stronger economically and

culturally rendering constant assistance to other peoples who, as result of their oppressed condition in the past, are backward. For instance, at the time of the great October Revolution, a majority of Uzbeks and Tajiks were illiterate and cultivated their land with very primitive tools. Central Asia had no industry. Now the land there is tilled with the help of tractors; heavy industry has been developed; culture has spread and all children attend school where teaching is conducted in their native language; national theatres, literature and Press have been created. Such great changes could only be brought about in life of these peoples in such a brief period of time thanks to the help which was, and is, permanently and systematically forthcoming from the federation as a whole to build up national economy and culture of these peoples.

Under such conditions joint resistance, which peoples of the USSR offered to Hitler's invading hordes, could seem unexpected only to such "experts" on Russia as the notorious Hitlerite Rosenberg, Chief Counsellor on Russian questions of the ill-starred "Fuehrer".

Soviet Federation has ensured peoples of the USSR true freedom, equality and national development. The only answer to this on the part of these peoples could be ardent patriotism and burning hatred of their common enemy. Soviet peoples have given this answer both on fields of battle against the fascist invaders and on the home front by their arduous labour in factories, plants and collective farm fields of the great Soviet Union.

## XII

### Moscow leads off The Historic Session.

**M**ARCH fourth 1944 closed the fifth session of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federative Soviet



Socialist Republic, the largest republic in the Soviet Union.

In the history of the Soviet State the Russian people hold a place of its own. In the years of peaceful socialist development the Russian Federation did a great deal for the prosperity of all the peoples in the Soviet Union. Its fraternal assistance to other republics has played an enormous role in their state development and progress of their industry, agriculture, sciences and arts. In the great Patriotic War the Russian people have risen in their millions to the defence of their country; and the fame of heroic sons of the Russian people, the descendants of the great Russian Bogatyrs, has spread throughout the world. Once again the Russian people have demonstrated their ardent love for their country, their courage, daring and skill in fighting the enemy.

On the battlefields has grown still stronger the friendship between the Russian people and all other peoples of the USSR people, that have risen to defend their country against the Hitlerite robbers. Struggle against the German fascist enslavers has become the sacred cause of all the peoples in the multi-national Soviet Union. The Russian helps the Ukrainian to clear from the enemy the lands of the Ukraine; the Kazakh helps the Leningraders to hold out against the enemy and drive him from the gates of their heroic city. No friendship is stronger than the one sealed with blood in struggle against the enemy for the country's freedom, honour and independence.

The session of Supreme Soviet, RSFSR, became a demonstration of the greatness and might of the Russian people and its indomitable will to bend all its efforts in order to bring about the utter defeat of the enemy; to achieve the further strengthening of the Soviet State and the development of its economy and culture.

The session of the Supreme Soviet, RSFSR, discussed questions of utmost importance to the state. It discussed

and approved of the State Budget of the RSFSR for 1944. The financial programme of the Russian Federation reflects the great power of the Soviet State, its ability, even under hard wartime conditions, not only successfully to beat the enemy but to consolidate its economy, develop its culture and advance science, education, public health and arts.

The session, after hearing and discussing the report delivered by the Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, RSFSR, Kosygin, adopted the "Law on the organization of the Union Republican People's Commissariat for the Defence of the RSFSR" and the "Law on the organization of Union Republican People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, RSFSR".

The great Patriotic War demonstrated before the whole world the boundless devotion of all the people's in the Soviet Union to their country. The sons of all the Soviet peoples, the representatives of all the nationalities in the USSR consider it their sacred duty to defend the honour, freedom and independence of our state with arms in hand. Each peoples constituting the great family of the Soviet Union is proud of its glorious heroes who have displayed wonders of valour, bravery and courage on battlefields against the Hitlerite invaders. The organization in the Union Republics of military formations as component parts of the Red Army will provide Union Republics an opportunity still more to contribute to the consolidation of the military might of the Soviet Union and to strengthening its armed forces. The law on the organization of military formations is of special significance to the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic which unites a considerable number of nationalities.

The law on the organization of Union Republican People's Commissariat for the Defence of the RSFSR is a sure pledge that the Russian people who are self-sacrificingly fighting against the Hitlerite robbers and

are making contribution to this struggle, will still further bend their efforts to inflict more severe blows on the enemy until all the Soviet land is cleared of the German invaders.

### FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The law on the organization of Union Republican People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, RSFSR is destined to play a great role. As we know, the Supreme Soviet of USSR has passed a law investing the union republics with powers in the sphere of foreign relations. The right of the Union Republics to establish direct relations with respective foreign states will make it possible better to satisfy the specific economic and cultural requirements of the Union Republics. To the Russian republic with its grown economic and cultural interests the question of appearing in the foreign arena assumes a great and vital importance. The organization of the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, RSFSR, just as the organization of the People's Commissariats for Foreign Affairs in the other Union Republics, will serve to expand international connections and strengthen the cooperation of the USSR with other states.

The session of the Supreme Soviet, RSFSR passed decisions on a number of other questions too. To deal most fully with the problem of conducting sessions and maintaining contact with delegations and deputies in the course of deliberations of the sessions, the number of vice speakers of the Supreme Soviet, RSFSR have been increased to eight.

The session elected Nikolaiovich Mikhailovich Shvernik, as President, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, RSFSR and I. A. Vlasov, the first Vice President of the Presidium.

A spirit of elation pervaded the session of the Supreme Soviet, RSFSR. In their speeches the deputies cited numerous vivid facts testifying to the true heroism of the peoples inhabiting the Russian Federation and their eager determination to help the Red Army inflict on the enemy an utter and final defeat.

The entire Soviet people in their millions are partaking in the great Patriotic War against the Hitlerite hordes led by its Supreme Commander-in-Chief, Marshal of the Soviet Union, Marshal Stalin.

[Leading Article in The "Izvestia"]

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### XIII

#### Ukraine on the march.

THE Ukraine, which is the second largest republic after the RSFSR in population, became a battle ground and was temporarily occupied by the Hitlerite hordes. Hitler divided the Ukraine's living body into three parts hoping thus to break the people's integral will. A part of the country was attached to the Polish "Governor Generalship," a part, including beautiful Odessa, was handed over to Antonescu and a third was placed under the rule of "Reichs Commissar Koch." To Hitler's primitive irrational logic the question appeared to be settled. But the Ukraine retaliated with its partisan warfare: German trains were derailed. Behind the ordinary front another opened which was extremely mobile and elusive and wallowed up German soldiers, shells and stores.

Germans were in the Ukraine in 1918, but were thrown out by the Ukrainians with the aid of Russians. Germans learnt nothing from the lessons of history: they came once more and learned the same lesson on a much larger scale. The Red Army, which is made up of Russians in the main, augmented by the best sons of all nationalities of the

Soviet Union, came to the struggling Ukraine's aid. The Red Army crossed the Dnieper, Bug, Dniester, Pruth and now the entire Ukraine breathes the free Soviet air again.

In the fires of the great Patriotic War were bonds of unity and love strengthened between the Ukrainians and Russians as between all peoples of USSR. The Ukrainians threw themselves with supreme heroism into the common struggle for their own freedom and the freedom of the USSR. Three hundred thousand Ukrainians in the Red Army ranks have been awarded orders and medals. They are fighting on all fronts from the Barents to the Black Sea for their Soviet country.

Firm friendship is the force that spurs on the Soviet soldiers to final destruction of the enemy.

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#### XIV

### Friendship among the Soviet Peoples.

[N. Khrushchov, Chairman of the Council of People's Commissars, Ukrainian SSR at the sixth session of the Supreme Ukrainian Soviet, 1st March, 1944.]

**F**ROM the very first days of the war hundreds of thousands of workers, collective farmers, members of the intelligentsia of the Soviet Ukraine have joined in the ranks of the Red Army and are fighting with arms in hand for the defence, honour and independence of our country, the Ukraine, even as the representatives of all the peoples in our Soviet Union are heroically fighting on the fronts of the Patriotic war. The finest sons of the Soviet nation have been awarded orders and medals of the Soviet Union by the government. Among the decorated are 299 thousand Ukrainians.

The splendid family of the Heroes of the Soviet Union includes 544 Ukrainians. Among them are such brave sons of the Ukrainian people as Alexander Molodchy twice Hero of the Soviet Union-Guards Sergeant Peter Kharkovsky, the tankman Timofei Shashlo, the Glinka brothers, Dmitri Ostapenko, Sokols-father and son—and many others.

The Red Army is the army of a brotherly friendship among the peoples of the USSR, Sons and daughters of all the peoples in the Soviet Union are heroically fighting shoulder to shoulder on the fronts of the Patriotic War.

Here is data regarding the nationality of Heroes of the Soviet Union at the First Ukrainian Front: Russians 586, Ukrainians 146, Belo Russians 18, Tatars 15, Jews 11, Mordovians 7, Uzbeks 6, Kazakish 6, Georgians 5, Chuvash 4, Bashkirs 2, Mari 2, Ossetians 1, Azerbaijanians 1, Aoles 1, Kirghiz 1, and Tajiks 1.

These figures testify again and again to the great friendship among the peoples: the friendship which has been brought into being in our Soviet Union by our great leader Comrade Stalin.

At our session we are in a position to note with great satisfaction and pride that all the Soviet patriots, including loyal sons and daughters of the Ukrainian people, do not spare their lives and perform heroic feats for the sake of our native land's liberation.

There is not a single town or village in which the Hitlerite blood-suckers have not committed their monstrous crimes.

When they occupied the Ukraine, the German imperialists began to deport thousands of Soviet citizens or bondage into Germany. Over a hundred and twenty-five thousand were deported to slave labour in Germany from the Stalino, over a hundred thousand

from the Kharkov region, over a hundred thousand from Kiev, over a hundred and thirty thousand from the Dniepropetrovsk region.

Our Soviet people who have been deported to Germany are enduring frightful sufferings. They are dying of cold and starvation and perishing of exhausting toil. German slave holders are making a sport of the Soviet citizens. These sufferings are related by people who have escaped from Germany; and these sufferings we also read in the letters from our people in Germany to their folks and friends.

There have been cases, by no means isolated, when Soviet citizens, in order to escape hard labour in Germany have inflicted injuries on themselves or even committed suicide.

The German invaders have inflicted enormous damage to the Ukraine's national economy. They tried to use the wealth of the Ukraine to develop the German industries. The German industrialists and factory owners, such as Goering and others, sent their officials to the Ukraine to exploit coalfields, iron ore and manganese deposits and to appropriate the factories profits from the sweat and blood of the working people in the Ukraine. The German robbers sent off thousand of tons of the Donets coal, Nikopol and Krivoy Rogores and other resources to fascist Germany.

The German imperialists began to divide the Soviet factories among themselves. How this division looked in practice may be seen by the example of the "October Revolution." Locomotive Building Works in Voroshilovgrad. The first to come here were the agents of the Hartmann who owned this factory prior to 1917.

Sometimes later came the representatives of the Krupp who presented documents to the effect that

Hartmann had once sold the factory to the Krupps. The agents of Hartmann went back home with nothing to show their pains. Soon, however, Goering's representatives appeared on the scene. They told the Krupp people that the latter had a right on the old "October Revolution" factory, but that Goering laid claim on the new factory that has been built up during the Soviet period. It was decided to divide the factory. They were thus busy dividing it until the Red Army flung them all out of Voroshilovgrad.

The fascist robbers have inflicted severe wounds on our industry. They wrecked all metallurgical, coke, chemical and engineering plants of the Ukrainian SSR and, in Donbas, they destroyed all collieries, factories, mining machinery, electro-mechanical shops and whole settlements of the miners. On the railways of the Ukraine the German invaders wrecked 9203 kilometres of main lines.

In only eight liberated regions of the Ukraine east of the Dnieper and the city of Kiev the invader destroyed more than four million square metres of housing space, or about half the housing space of these regions. In the cities of Stalino, Poltava and Chernigov they destroyed two-thirds of the total housing space.

Grave damage has been caused by the Germans to our agriculture too. Germans set fire to and demolished Ukrainian villages. In a hundred and ninety-seven districts of the Ukraine east of the Dnieper the German fiends consigned to flames 319 thousand households of the collective farmers. They destroyed every fourth collective farmer's cottage. In seventeen districts of the Sumy region the Germans burnt down 6100 collective-farm buildings or, on an average, seven large structures in every collective farm.

The German intruders barbarously destroyed the crops of the Ukrainian peasants. Only in twenty districts of the



Poltava region, in Germans, before retreating, burnt grain shocks and stacks on an area of ninety-seven thousand hectares. In six districts of the Poltava region the Germans consigned to flames about a hundred and twenty thousand metric centners of grain that was stored in granaries. The invaders have also done a great deal of damage to the livestock industry of the Ukraine.

Indeed, they engaged in open, unbridled looting. Every German soldier could dispose of the possessions of collective farms and the property of collective farmers as he pleased. But even this was not enough for the German fascist brigands. Even in robbery they followed the tried method: where they could not grab openly, they resorted to deceit.

By wantonly destroying the cultural institutions of the Ukraine, wrecking and pillaging cultural historical treasures, defiling our shrines, Germans thought to rob the Ukrainian people of its culture and reduce it to the status of slaves, not only physically but spiritually. As we know, these perfidious plans of Germans utterly failed.

The Hitlerites abolished Soviet schools and opened a few "popular" schools which taught the minimum need for artisans. In those schools studied a small number of children up to the age of twelve.

Germans permitted the Ukrainians to think of, and aspire for, only physical labour. The fascist newspaper *Nove Ukrainsk Slovo* printed a statement by Erich Koch in which he attacked the Ukrainians for their fondness of their Ukrainian culture. He demanded that they should think less of Shevchenko and songs of bandura players and more about physical work in Germany.

The intruders subjected the Soviet intelligentsia to a most outrageous treatment. Thousands of professionals were shot in Kharkov, Kiev, Stalino and Dniepropetrovsk. The majority of the school teachers were unemployed or worked as common labourers under the Germans.

The German invaders closed down the Soviet colleges. They opened a few colleges which proved to be traps. Several weeks after their opening, Germans declared that all students were drafted for work in Germany, shipped them off to slavery and closed the colleges.

In the territory of the now-liberated districts of the Soviet Ukraine, east of the Dnieper the Germans, according to preliminary data have destroyed 3216 school buildings. They stole over four million books from the libraries of Kiev. In the districts of the Ukraine east of the Dnieper they demolished or burnt down a hundred and forty-six cinemas. The Hitlerites systematically destroyed schools, museums, libraries, clubs, theatres and other cultural and educational institutions.

The Germans pillaged the institutes of the Academy of Sciences, Ukrainian SSR, removed the most valuable among the collections from the zoological museum and many other museums' equipment, laboratories, scientific research institutions, colleges and theatres.

The Soviet people will take revenge on the German fascist fiends for the looting and the destruction of our cities, villages, our cultural institutions, for all their outrages against women and children and for the murder of civilians, deportation of the Soviet citizens to slavery in Germany.

The hour of full reckoning with the German fascist intruders for all their bloody crimes is drawing near.

#### XIV

### The Woman President of the Chuvash Republic speaks

**Z**OYA ANDROYOVA, President of the Chuvash autonomous republic, a woman of about forty, tall, tately and formerly a village school teacher, has become

the head of her republic. Her activity is the best proof of how equal rights for all nationalities and for men and women alike were realized in the Soviet Union.

The Chuvash people numbering some eleven lakh inhabit the central part of the Volga basin. Before the Revolution this people was dying out from tuberculosis, small-pox and other diseases. Almost 20 per cent. of the population suffered from trachoma, as a result of which the number of the blind among them was enormous.

Androyova was born in a small village in the family of a doctor's assistant. Her father had to deprive himself of much to be able to give his daughter high school education. On graduating from high school Zoya Androyova returned to her native village as teacher.

The October Revolution produced enormous changes in the life of the Chuvash people. That country became an autonomous republic forming a part of the RSFSR and the Soviet constitution granted equal political and civil rights to its women. Yet their age old backwardness and prejudices prevented the Chuvash women from making a full use of the opportunities made available by the Revolution. In Chuvashia women were not supposed to sit at table with men : they used to take their meals standing behind them. At the village meetings the women were not allowed to speak. She undertook to carry on educational and cultural activities among women. She drew them to active social and fought for the introduction of modern methods of rural so as to ease the burden on women peasants.

Her work was far from easy, but it was a thankful task. Andreyeva could see people developing and a new Chuvashia being born. In the course of her work she, too, learnt a great deal and gained much experience.

"You would not recognize the Chuvashia today" she said. You will now find modern agricultural implements were implements where peasants formerly used wooden plough,

with the result that crop yields have increased enormously. Cattle breeding has been raised to a high level; new industrial enterprises have grown up and good roads have been built. We now have universal elementary education and a net-work of hospitals. The youth are studying in new higher schools.

The war has increased the role and the importance of the Chuvash women who now form fifty per cent of the workers in agriculture and in industry. Despite the fact that many men have entered the army this year's crops were gathered successfully. We will soon start the Volga Electric Power Station which uses peat for fuel. This station has been built during the war and among the builders are many women.

Chuvashia, too, is doing all it can to help the front. The people have contributed large amounts of money to build tanks and planes. Dubrovin, collective-farmer, has donated one lakh rubles and a plane which was built with the money given by his son, a pilot. Shurmanova, a collective farm woman donated enough money to build a tank which he presented to her son, a tank driver.

The war is raging far beyond the borders of Chuvashia, but we hear and feel it. When the Russian is engaged in a battle a Chuvash cannot remain a stander by. He remembers the behest of his forefathers: You may lose your head but never your honour.

*"What are we doing to help our great motherland in the time of war? We are doing what our patriotic prompt us to. Our first duty is to defend the country without sparing our lives. And our fathers, husbands, brothers and fiances have joined the Red Army and are fighting the enemy along the whole enormous front. The title of Hero of the Soviet Union has been conferred on ten Chuvashes. Our ten thousand of our soldiers have been decorated by the Government. We are proud of our countryman, Hero of the Soviet Union, Boris Vasilyev,*

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375 times did this courageous flyer lead his formation against the enemy and in one combat he shot down seven fascist planes. The machinegunner, Alexander Sidorin is one of the fifteen Red Army men who stopped a German battalion during the forcing of the river Dnieper and who personally destroyed 250 Nazi bandits. This action is held in high regard by our people. The machinegun crew, Commander Smirnov sacrificed his life to blow up a German tank at the approaches of Leningrad.

Many thousands of sons of the Chuvash peoples are fighting the German invaders in all sectors of the Soviet-German front.

"Chuvash warriors! Together with Red Army fighters of other nationalities of the USSR, clear our soil of the enemy. Be a hero! Wherever you meet a fascist, exterminate him!" Thus wrote the Chuvash people in their message to their sons in the frontlines. This letter was signed by hundreds of thousands of people.

Chuvash men and officers in the Red Army are carrying out the wish of their people. Over 10,000 Chuvash frontiers have been decorated with orders and medals of the Soviet Union for distinguished action on the battlefield and more than ten of them are Heroes of the Soviet Union.

This is how the Chuvash people, bound with ties of indivisible friendship with all the nationalities of the Soviet Union, participates in the common struggle against Hitlerite Germany.

## V

### **Interview with Sofia Sidorova, President, Yakutian Soviet Autonomous Republic and Deputy of the Supreme Soviet, USSR.**

**S**OFIA SIDOROVA is a native of Yakutia; a woman 38 years old, robust and energetic with experience of

organizational work and business. She is among the first Yakut woman to receive higher education having graduated from the University for Eastern Peoples in Moscow. Her tireless activities for the republic have earned her popularity among the Yakut people who elected her to their parliament in 1938.

The Yakutian Soviet autonomous republic, situated in the eastern part of Siberia borders on the Arctic Ocean in the north. Its climate is very severe; the winter is accompanied by heavy blizzards and frosts reaching to seventy degrees centigrade, but, despite the climatic and geographical difficulties, the Yakut people work enthusiastically for their republic's progress. Under the Soviet power the Yakutians were given their own alphabet and for the first time schools opened with tuition in the Yakut language. The Yakut republic now has its own intelligentsia: doctors, engineers, artists executives and men engaged in the administration of public affairs.

Sofia Sidorova, is among the deputies who came to Moscow for the tenth session of the Supreme Soviet, USSR. I profited by the occasion by interviewing her regarding the life of the Yakut republic in wartime and the activity of the Yakut women in particular. Here is what she told me: "In the absence of their husbands, brothers and sons who are now in the army, the Yakutian women overtook economic and administrative positions formerly held by their men. Our republic is exceptionally rich in timber, minerals and metals, especially gold, and many of our women are now engaged in the mining industry.

"Since the war broke out many women have learned to take care of the reindeer herds. In our republic the reindeer breeding is of an exceptional importance since these animals are used for draught purposes, and are also valued for their meat, fur and hide. Very few people know how difficult the work of our herdsmen is, they must know Tundra well so as to choose good pastures; they must be



brave in order to protect the herds against wolves and other beasts of prey, and not lose any reindeer in our heavy blizzards. In addition they must have rudimentary knowledge of veterinary science and be able to render first aid to their animals in emergency cases.

We are trying to help bandsmen and their families in every possible way. When they leave for their camps we supply them with food and clothing ; they are accompanied by itinerant stalls wherein they can obtain tea, fats and clothing.

"In our republic we have a number of men herdsmen well-known for excellent work in preserving and increasing the reindeer herds. Some of them have been awarded Certificates of Merit by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet. Examples are Paria Penzerova who became a herdsman two years ago and Ustinya Batakayeva who replaced her husband who is now at the front. Anisya Koltovskaya, twentyone-year-old, has won respect of the Yakuts : after having had four years training in high school she graduated from a special veterinary course and the two years that she worked in the Zhigansk district she has done excellent work of stamping out epidemic diseases among herds. Our republic is rich in furbearing animals. Our silver foxes, stables, white and blue foxes and ermines are very much appreciated by women all over the world. Among our hunters are a good many women and Yevodkia Starostin is widely known as a huntress. She is fifty-five and has twenty years of experience and now heads the brigade of women hunters who are doing very good work.

"Hunting in Yakutia is a hard work accompanied by serious privations. We are trying to supply the hunters the best we can and consider all their needs. The hunters are supplied with ammunition for their rifles and with foodstuffs which are delivered to their camps by the reindeer. In addition, there are travelling stalls.

"The German attack at the Soviet Union made us feel

ow strong were the moral and political ties that unite us with the great Russian nation. Seeing off their husbands, sons, brothers and sweethearts to the distant front, the Yakut women bade them fight to the end for victory. *This sacred duty the sons of Yakutia are fulfilling with honour*".

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## VI

### 'Germans wanting to enslave us' 'Nothing Doing' Says North Ossetian President.

**O**UR interview after the close of the session of the Supreme Soviet, the RSFSR was somewhat unusual for the busy centre, Moscow.

Georgi Gaglayev, a member of the Supreme Soviet, the RSFSR, received me in accordance with the custom of his people. He is the *Chairman of the Presidium, the Supreme Soviet of the North Ossetia Autonomous Socialist Soviet Republic* situated on the northern slope of the Caucasian mountains. He is of medium height, broad shouldered with a kindly face. He wears high boots and dark blouse and belt inlaid with silver.

Although we were not acquainted Gaglayev met me at the appointed hour at the door of his room in the hotel, took me by hand and led me inside. Supper was laid on the table at which my host invited me to sit down.

"Eat please, eat," he said. "Eat and you will be a kunak" (friend). These pears are from our Ossetian orchards. Eat! I am not going to talk to you until you have eaten. Such is the custom of our fathers".

Before our meeting I had already heard much about Georgi Gaglayev, about the hard school of life he went through. In his youth he left his village Nogir where his

parents tilled a small patch of land. He joined a guerilla detachment to fight for the Revolution. For two years he was in the melting pot of the Civil War. Then he returned to his native Ossetia went to the Sadon Nork Lead and Zinc mine. He worked as zealously as he had fought. None crushed more ore than he did.

He was sent with a party of workers to Donbas. There he mastered the Russian language in underground mining. He mined twice as much anthracite as the best coal-hewer.

When Sergo Orjonikidze, comrade-in-arm of Stalin, paid a visit to the colliery he said of Gaglayev "he is a Titan of mining".

Gaglayev then returned to the ore mine of his native mountains. Here he studied and read much. He was elected People's Judge. He would pass sleepless nights studying each case so as to pass an upright judgment. Gradually Georgi Gaglayev kept on mounting and reached a high rung of the ladder—the post of the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of his country.

"Germans wanted to enslave us", said Gaglayev to me. "Nothing doing! They came to the outskirts of Orjonikidze, now renamed Dzaujikau, but failed to cross the Qerek although this mountain river is only ten metres wide. I was then Chief of the city's Defence. Young and old, men and women came to me and volunteered to join the fighting forces. Among them was 70-year-old Khaji Murat Zarakhokhov, Hero of the Civil War, who said, 'Give me a horse and we will see who sits more firmly on the saddle.'"

The inhabitants put up two defence lines around the city and over 4000 strong points. Germans sent scores of bombers over the town, but women did not leave their work. One of the passes, called Darg Khokh, means 'long mountain'. All of our mountains seemed very long to the German. In the beginning of the November 1942 a fierce battle was raging continuously for seven days and nights.

Troops of the Red Army routed the Germans and threw back from the city.

"Our is a small but brave people. There are tens of thousands of Ossetian soldiers in the Red Army and among them are 14 Heroes of the Soviet Union and many commanders.

"The battle for the Caucasus is a thing of the past. North Ossetia has become a distant hinterland. We are successfully restoring our economy that has been ruined by the Germans. Our Beslan vegetable oil factory is now working more efficiently than before the war and for its output holds the second place in the world. Many women work in the Sadon Lead and Zinc Ore Mine and work quite well. On collective farms women's labour now plays a big role. All state deliveries have been affected in time. In settlements where the Germans have razed everything to the ground brick yards have been set up and the inhabitants are building new houses.

"Everything for the front, everything for victory! That is the slogan under which all people of the Soviet Union are working".

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## XVII

### The Moldavians Resist

THE Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic with an area of thirty-four thousand square kilometers and a population of 2 million 2 hundred thousand is situated in the extreme south-west of the USSR on the frontier of Rumania. It occupies an undulating but in the main flat plain between the rivers Pruth and Dniester extending somewhat beyond the latter river. Only in the midlands is the plain intersected by low hills covered with oak, beech and birch. The country is rich in building materials such as limestone, brick, clay and sand used for making glass.

Before the end of the first World War, Moldavia, a major part of which was Bessarabia, belonged to Russia, but Rumania seized the country up to the Dniester and forcibly Rumanised it. This caused its economic and cultural decline. The area of cultivation under fruit and tobacco and the stock of cattle diminished. The industrial output declined; the number of workers employed in industry was reduced by fifty per cent. During the period Rumanians were in occupation, there was wretched poverty and high mortality prevailed among peasants-being as high as sixty per cent.

Upto sixty per cent of the total population and seventy-three per cent of peasants were illiterate. Moldavian language and culture were banned as also were those of other nationalities inhabiting the country.

In Moldavia on the other side of the Dniester life was entirely different. Here, with the aid of Russian and Ukrainian peoples, the Moldavian Autonomous SSR was formed and agriculture, industry and Moldavian national culture made rapid progress.

In June 1940 the historic injustice of the annexation of Bessarabia by Rumania was removed. Bessarabia was restored to the Soviet Union. On August 2, 1940, the Supreme Soviet, USSR, granted the petition of the Moldavian people in Bessarabia to join with the people of Moldavian Autonomous Republic to form Soviet Socialist Republic which received the status of a Union Republic.

Seventy per cent of the population of this republic are Moldavians, the rest being Russians, Ukrainian and others. For the first time in their history the Moldavian people have acquired a written language and their own national literature. The number of schools and other cultural institutions in the country has increased. The number of school children has increased to half a million. There were three higher educational establishments functioning in the country; one agricultural and two higher pedagogical schools. In addi-

ion, there were numerous technical schools attended by five thousand students. Newspapers were published in the Moldavian and other languages. National theatres were established. Hospitals, dispensaries, maternity homes and children's creches were built.

The Moldavian peasants, formerly landless or almost so, received allotments to develop their husbandry. In Bessarabia alone peasants received land amounting to a total of two hundred thousand hectares. Following this the peasants of the newly-affiliated region formed collective farms and the fertile black earth between the Pruth and the Dniester was cultivated with tractors and harvester combines. New orchards and vineyards were planted mainly on wooded downs in adjacent valleys of midlands. In Moldavia grapes, both for dessert and wine, plums, apples, pears, apricots, peaches and walnuts were grown. The vineyard area increased to a hundred thousand hectares. Tomatoes, plants and marrows were grown to a large extent. Cereal crops also occupied an important place in Moldavia's agriculture and an extensive area was devoted to wheat, barley and maize. The other crops cultivated were sugar beet, tobacco and sunflower, the area of which steadily increased. Dairy farming and pit and poultry breeding were also important. Fishing was conducted in the Dniester and Pruth.

The industry was in the main engaged in processing the country's agricultural produce. The most important branches were wine making, meat packing, processing natural fats, oil, flour milling and manufacture of macaroni; fruit and vegetable canning, manufacture of tobacco and distilling. Stone quarrying and brick and tile making were also developed. Oil refinery, which had been standing idle for years under the Rumanian regime, was restarted by the Soviet Government, and measures were taken to develop the metal industry which scarcely existed in the country.

The Rumanian fascist clique, which turned the

country into an obedient tool of Hitlerite Germany, invaded and seized Moldavia. Bloody terror of national oppression and wretched poverty had again fallen to the lot of Moldavia. But the people had not resigned themselves to this fate. Fearless Moldavian partisans, backed by the entire Moldavian people, struck telling blows at the Rumanian and German fascist invaders while the gallant Red Army drove their oppressors from the land.

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## XVIII

### Soviet Kirghizia at War.

**C**ENTURIES of progress crammed into decades—such in brief are the results achieved by Kirghizia following the great October Socialist Revolution. One of the most backward border lands of the Russian empire, Kirghizia was a land of nomad herdsmen and small handicraft shops. Agriculture was unknown there. People were condemned to poverty, want and ignorance. According to official statistics there were a total of four Kirghizians with high school education then.

A most astonishing transformation has taken place in Kirghizia during the Stalin Five Year Plan periods. Years of socialist construction increased the productive force of the country. Scores of plants, factories and power stations have been built in the republic and large scale agriculture and livestock raising on collective basis introduced. Some four hundred thousand students are now attending a vast network of schools functioning in the republic.

The Kirghiz people highly appreciate the aid given to them by peoples of the Soviet Union and primarily by the great Russian people in achieving national and economic regeneration. The wise Stalin national policy secured to the Kirghiz people equal rights and happiness for the first

time in many centuries. And when hordes of German fascism attacked the Soviet Union all Kirghiz people to a man rallied to the defence of their socialist motherland.

It is, indeed, hard to overestimate the contributions made by the Kirghiz people to the country's war effort. Sons of Kirghizia are fighting the enemy on the fields of battle. The name of Golponbai Tuleberdeiv who, by placing himself against embrasure of enemy pillbox, cleared the way for his unit, will for ever be enshrined in a halo of glory. Sixteen Kirghiz Heroes of the Soviet Union set remarkable examples of intrepidity and sense of duty. In this war against fascist invaders the Kirghiz soldiers have shown that they are true to the traditions of their ancestors, that the spirit of Manas, legendary hero, famous Kirghiz folk epic, is still alive in them.

This selflessness and heroism is also characteristic of Kirghiz soldiers of the labour front. Kirghiz women, who in the past occupied themselves mainly with household affairs have become most important for industry and agriculture during the war. They operate machines in factories, cultivate cotton, tobacco and sugarbeet in Chu and Terghana valleys, tend cattle in mountain pastures of Fianshan, Kashgartau and Alatau.

During the war Kirghizia's industry, agriculture and livestock, far from declining, developed at an exceptional tempo. The most important source of these successes is the patriotism of the Kirghiz people, their enthusiasm in labour coupled with planning and good organization.

During the early period of the war many important defence enterprises were evacuated to Kirghizia from western districts. While equipment was *en route* Kirghizians made all necessary preparations to receive it and when equipment arrived at premises, assembly of men, raw materials, were already. That is why one factory which manufactures unique products for war was able to resume production three months after its arrival.



Equipment shipped to Kirghizia from Ukrainian sugar refineries was still *en route* when preparations were begun in Kirghizia for extending area under sugarbeet, distribution of seed among collective farms and introduction of necessary agrotechnical rules. As result of this timely and planned work, Kirghiz collective farms achieved sharp increase in area under sugarbeet and helped the country to make up for temporary loss of Ukrainian sugar. The yield of sugarbeet in irrigated areas was brought up to 17.2 tons per acre. Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR—Surakan Kainazarova who was famous sugarbeet grower developed system of cultivation which enabled her to achieve yield of forty-tons per acre.

Kirghizia's working people are justly proud of their achievements in livestock breeding, the principal branch of farming in the republic during the war. The collective farm herd increased nearly fifty per cent. The Aidzhar Collective Farm which had eighteen thousand heads of cattle before the war now has some forty thousand. The credit for this success is due primarily to the enthusiastic effort of men and women collective farmers. Shepherds women, constituting more than fifty per cent, spend the winter in Alpine pastures far from their villages, but the realisation that their labour is necessary for the country at war helps them to surmount all difficulties and bear all privations. They consider it their civic duty to raise the productivity of cattle and increase milk yield. That is why the shepherd Abdrap Azarov, who obtained 664 lambs from 556 ewes in his charge and raised them all, is spoken of with such respect in the republic; equally popular is Sabit Kuldychayeva, shepherdess who raised 143 lambs per one hundred ewes and many other livestock breeds.

The rapid growth of herd was furthermore facilitated by change in system of livestock breeding. In the past Kirghizian livestock breeding developed along lines practised by nomad herdsmen. Hundreds of thousands of heads of cattle perished annually in winter pastures from natural

calamities and lack of fodder when the ground is covered with ice. Ranches were introduced although it demanded a tremendous amount of labour power for stocking in and delivering fodder.

During the war it was decided to utilise the age-old practice of the people with the necessary modifications, of course. Forms of nomad stockbreeding were adapted to conditions of planned socialist economy. Driving cattle to winter pastures was permitted provided emergency supplies of fodder were prepared at these pastures. This reduced the necessary labour power by approximately forty to forty-five per cent and fodder requirements by fifty to sixty per cent. This system furthermore resulted in decline of death rate among young, improvement of quality of meat and dairy products and in increased weight of stock. For example, the weight of ewe grazing in pastures throughout the year exceeded the weight of the barn-kept ewe by eight Kilograms.

Many enterprises and several new hydro-electric stations, including station built on great Chu canal near Frunze, were constructed in the republic during the war with use of volunteer labour. Kirghizia's non-ferrous metal industry early trebled its output and the area under technical crops has been growing from year to year.

Fighting side by side with all peoples of the Soviet Union for their freedom, their right to national existence and happiness of their children, Kirghizians have made important contributions to the common cause of victory over Hitler Germany.

## Azerbaijan Fights For Freedom.

By MIR BASHIR KASUMOR.

Chairman of the Presidium, the Supreme Soviet of Azerbaijan SSR.

IN estimating our achievements I can only take our war efforts as criterion. As you well know, 1944 was a year of decisive victories over the Nazis and their satellites. Every citizen of Azerbaijan may justly say that he has contributed to the cause of victory.

"The rout of Germans, resulted from combined efforts of the front and the rear. In both instances our people played their part.

Azerbaijanians' part at the front, needs mentioning the famed 416th Azerbaijanian Division which distinguished itself during the liberation of Russian and Ukrainian towns.

"Soldiers of our republic are now fighting on all sectors of the front. Every day brings news of our compatriots who distinguish themselves in the Baltics, Poland, Hungary, Letters to Azerbaijan come from Lublin, Belgrade and approaches of Budapest. I have read many of these messages from fighting men. All show confidence and express hatred of the enemy.

"Among the most gallant men of the country, Heroes of the Soviet Union, thirty are Azerbaijanians. Many of them received this coveted honour in 1944. Let me cite one example. Nadjaf Muli Rafiyev was a lorry driver in regional centre of Orduba before the war. Since then he has covered many miles of war's grim path. During one very fierce battle he himself and the tankmen under him seized eleven undamaged German tanks, seventeen trucks, knocked out several Ferdinands and took prisoner a good many Nazis, among whom were two generals. Not long ago this gallant son of Azerbaijanian people was honoured with the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

"Every Azerbaijanian, beginning with the general down to rank and file soldier, follows the traditions of people who have in past ages fought fearlessly for liberty and independence. Now shoulder to shoulder with their brothers inhabiting the great Soviet country they are fighting for their motherland.

"Then passing on to economics and culture.

"Slowly but steadily we have been increasing the output of oil. New oil deposits have been discovered near sea.

"Workers, employees and engineers of Baku oil refineries have been labouring selflessly to provide more oil for the fighting front and rear. The year's programme was fulfilled by the middle of November and many tons of additional oil have been produced since.

Through the fine initiative and inventiveness of workers in the past year 3,500 proposals for stepping up production were examined. Of this number over half were adopted and brought the economy of twenty-one million rubles in cash, besides saving tons of metal, oil and electricity.

"In the past year, peasants of the republic also distinguished themselves. Grain and cotton were delivered to the state ahead of the schedule and great efforts were made to increase herds of cattle. The republic won for the third time the Red Banner of the State Committee of Defence. All in all, collective farmers increased their herds by a million head. In the past year alone increase in sheep and goats was 280,000, cattle over 461,000 and pigs 5,000 which means that the front received much more meat, dairy products and wool.

Speaking of the intelligentsia, tremendous efforts were made to exploit natural resources of Azerbaijan.

"Very recently, new deposits of cobalt, molybdenum, lead and other ores were found.

"What better evidence of the development of our culture and art can I give than the recently-held musical

festival of the Caucasian republics where many war-time works by Azerbaijanian composers are well-represented.

"I don't doubt, that in the forthcoming year we shall celebrate fresh victories at the front and the rear. People of our republic have but one aim at present: to crush the vile enemy and return to the peaceful creative labour interrupted by the war."

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## XX

### General of Soviet Azerbaijan

By JACOB GIK.

**A**MONG those to be decorated for heroic deeds in the struggle against the enemies of Russia before the October Revolution were officers and men of Azerbaijan nationality. Before the Revolution when representative of many border nationalities were not called to colour such instances were rare.

This state of affairs changed radically. Thousand of Azerbaijanians have become officers during the Great Patriotic War. On nearly every sector of the Soviet German front today one will find majors, lieutenant-colonels and commanding officers of the Red Army units and formations who hail from Azerbaijan. Many of them have been decorated with orders and medals of the USSR and some of them won the title of the Hero of Soviet Union.

The Azerbaijan people are proud of their generals. One of the most outstanding generals, Major General Azi Aslanov, entered the present war as captain. His tank unit bore the first blow of Hitlerite hordes in the latter part of June 1941 in the Tarnopol region. Since then Azi Aslanov and his men have seen action in many battles against Nazi invaders.

In the days of epic engagement at Stalingrad, Aslanov's tank unit smashed the German positions on the flanks of the enemy defence line. The title of Hero of the Soviet Union was conferred upon Azi Aslanov for outstanding leadership and personal courage displayed in the historical battle on the banks of Volga. His name was mentioned on many occasion in communiques on the progress of fighting at Stalingrad. The tank unit Aslanov commanded renamed as Guards of Stalingrad Tank Unit.

The war bulletins issued by the Soviet Information Bureau mentioned the name of Azi Aslanov, who today holds the rank of Major-General, in connection with the victorious advance of the army of General Chernyakhovsky's troops through Belo-Russia. Another talented army leader is Major-General Valdimir Zyuvanov, who led the Azerbaijan Formation in battle for Caucasus. His men wiped out thousands of Hitlerites and destroyed hundreds of enemy tanks, field guns, and machineguns.

In the beginning of the patriotic war Major-General Zyuvanov was the Commanding Officer of the Red Army formation in the field, which later particularly distinguished itself in clearing Caucasus of Nazi invaders. At the present moment Major-General Zyuvanov has been entrusted with the task of training Azerbaijan reserves troops.

The rank of Major-General was recently conferred upon to other Azerbaijanian named, Bagirov, and Aziz Azizbekov. The former is in charge of air raid defence in Baku. The defence was so well organised that the Germans never dared to carry out air raid of any importance on Baku. Aziz Azizbekov is Quarter-master General in Azerbaijan.

As is already known many Armenians reside in Azerbaijan. Fraternal friendship between these two people is the characteristic feature of Soviet Transcaucasus. Armenian people also produced a crop of brilliant officers who

won nation-wide fame on the front. Among them we find such names as General Ivan Bagramyan, Commanding Officer on the first Baltic front. General Bagramyan comes from Chardakhly village, Shamakhon district, Azerbaijan, where his relatives still reside.

Incidentally Chardakhly always has brought up outstanding warriors. Besides General Bagramyan one will find at the front four colonels, two lieut-colonels, five majors and thirteen captains who hail from this Armenian village in Azerbaijan.

Major General Sarkis Martirosov, born in Shemakha town in Nagorny Karabakh and Lieut.-General Mikhail Barsegyan who come from the same district are adding to the glory of their people and their republic.

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## XXI

### Komi People's War Effort.

Interview with Gennadii Vetoshkin, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the Komi, A.S.S.R.

**B**EFORE I answer your question about the Komi people's war effort", he said, "I must say a few words of explanation that will enable you to understand its significance. Our republic lies in the north-eastern corner of the European part of RSFSR along the rivers Pechora and Vychegda. Practically the whole territory is a forest land and at the border eternal frost divides it in half. Komi people work in conditions of life that are very severe in a country so far north and so remote from the main lines of transport. These people, the Komi, were formerly called Zyriane and before the Soviet Government came to power they lived in little smoky shacks without chimneys, killed ermine and squirrels with flint hooks, ploughed with the primitive wooden plough, 'Sokhs', and harrowed with stump of branchy pine.

"The face of our republic and the lives of the people inhabiting it have undergone great changes during the years of the Soviet rule. For one thing, practically all people have become literate. National literature and press have been founded and many schools, technical schools and institutes have been opened. Our fields are cultivated by tractors now. The Lumber industry is large, well-developed and mechanised. Pechora was talked about for hundred years, but all this remained unexploited until the Soviet rule came in power. During peaceful years this local wealth was placed at the country's service. Our capital, Syktyvkar, was built up; motor roads were made and power station built.

On June 22, 1941, the day, when Hitlerite Germany made its treacherous attack on the Soviet Union, war-work began in full swing in Soviet north. Thousands were engaged in building the Northern Pechora Railway and opening the road to the Ukhta oil and Pechora coal. Shafts were sunk in places calculated to yield large quantities of cooking coal and timber was being prepared in steadily increasing scale. Collective farm peasants were extending the area under crops and rearing the yield. The tempo of our growth will best be illustrated by two figures: in 1940 capital investments in industrial undertaking amounted to 458 million rubles; in 1941 they had already increased to 658 million.

Thousands of kilometres divided our republic from the front, but from the first day of the war the sum of our work goes to swell the common effort of the Soviet people. During the war one and a half milliard rubles have been invested in the economy of the Komi ASSR. A new coal base of all union importance has been founded with dozens of shafts in places where cooking coal and coals are mined. A first rate railway line has been built, which will facilitate transport of timber, oil, coal and other raw materials, in which our republic is so rich, to the industries in the north and the centre. Now the republic has been



enriched by industrial plants, new oil wells and new power stations. Thousands of people, who are Stakhanovites are toiling self-denyingly in the name of victory and have done much to advance our republic during the war. In northern Pechora a new fuel base was found, and exploitation of the north was accorded recognition by the USSR Government and 500 people were awarded orders and medals".

"Perhaps you will tell us something about the part the Komi people are taking directly in the war", I asked Vetoshkin.

He gave me the following facts :

"Thousands of Komi men are under arms and defending the honour and independence of the Soviet country. They are fighting side by side with the Russians, Belorussians, Ukrainians, Georgians, Tatars and Bashkirs. Up to now 2182 Red Army men and officers from Komi people have been awarded medals and orders for bravery. The names of our sons, Ivan Markov, Vassili Kisliakov, Nikolai Oplesnin are to be found in the glorious family of the heroes of the Soviet Union. During the heaviest fighting for Stalingrad sixteen guardsmen blocked the enemy tanks' passage with their bodies, that sounds like some glorious legend, and among those sixteen was Mikhail Shuktomov, son of our people. Another Komi man, Serafim Oparin, who killed over 500 Germans, is known throughout the front as a Sniper. The rifle division that distinguished itself in the battles for the liberation of the Smolensk region is commanded by Colonel Stepan Turlev, who was born in a Komi village. I could cite scores of instances to illustrate the part the Komi republic is taking in the Patriotic War and all these similar heroic efforts made by Komi workers and engineers bear witness to the unanimity of all the citizens of the multi-national Soviet Union in their resolution to destroy Hitlerism for ever and defend their native country."

## People of Uzbekistan Gear all Efforts.

By ABDUVALI MUMINOV.

(Chairman of Presidium of Supreme Soviet of Uzbek Soviet Socialist Republic).

**W**HAT has Uzbekistan done and what is she doing to win the war? Like all the other republics that make up the Soviet Union, she has geared all her efforts and subordinated every aspect of her life to the accomplishment of this great task.

That has been the case since the very first day of the German invasion of our country. Thousands of Uzbeks have joined the Red Army and are serving their country at the front. The Uzbeks Tuichi Erjigitov earned the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union by giving his life to enable his comrades to advance; with his body he silenced the machine gun of a German pillbox that stemmed the progress of his unit. His was an example of the valour that has earned glory for the Uzbek soldier on the field of battle.

As regards industrial effort, Uzbekistan is now a producer of aircraft, various other armaments and ammunition, while war industry is continually being expanded. The republic is justly called one of the arsenals of the Soviet Union.

One of the most noteworthy features of the republic's war effort is the expansion of industry as a result both of the evacuation in the early period of the war of industrial enterprises from zone of hostilities and the construction of many new plants and mills. Working full blast at their new locations, many of the evacuated plants are today producing far more than they did before evacuation.

To satisfy the power needs of the republic's rapidly expanding industry, several power plants have been built since the outbreak of war, while others are under construction at present. Prominent among the latter is the Farkhad station, second in capacity only to the famed Dnepropetrovsk hydro-electric power station. A remarkable feature of the power development under way is the role popular initiative plays in its advancement, the people of entire districts pooling their efforts and time to push projects through as rapidly as possible. At the Farkhad site, for instance, tens of thousands of volunteer workers from the republic's collective farms are engaged.

No less significant is the considerable expansion of mining in the course of the past war years. Uzbek oil too has become an important industrial factor with production last year amounting to nearly three times that in the first year of war. A coal industry has been built up from the beginning since the outbreak of war, and the construction of the first iron and steel works in the republic going on at a good pace. Dozens of deposits of various non-ferrous and rare metals as well as raw material sources for the chemical industry have been discovered and their industrial exploitation launched since the Nazi attack. By no means least among them is tungsten, which plays such an important role in steel production.

When Uzbek industry is discussed, it must be remembered that in tsarist times the territory which is now the republic of Uzbekistan had only a few semi-handicrafts workshops. Rapid industrialisation in Soviet times is the result of the policy pursued in this respect by the government. We could set up a war industry speedily because of the foundation laid for it in the course of the Stalin Five-year plan, when with the aid of the USSR Government numerous plants, many of them equal in size to leading enterprises in the central regions of the USSR, were built and skilled industrial workers were trained.

The devotion and labour enthusiasm of the Uzbek farmers do not lag behind that in the cities and towns. Despite the hardships caused by the war, the republic's collective farms have increased their cultivated area by 20 per cent in comparison with 1941. Grain crops alone have expanded by 835,000 hectares (a hectare equals 2.47 acres). Most of the cotton and over 50 per cent of the silk used by the Soviet Union's war plants is raised in Uzbekistan. To boost farm production still further, the collective farms have on their own initiative built a number of major irrigation canals.

These successes scored in both industry and agriculture would have been unthinkable had it not been for the patriotic zeal that moves each and every Uzbek. The watchword in the countryside is to work for two and three, and overfulfilment of output plan has become the rule in industry. Uzbek women must be paid the highest of tribute for their efforts in all fields of endeavour where they have taken the place of men who have joined the army.

A reflection of the lofty patriotism that spurs the people of the republic to new feats of valour is the eagerness with which Uzbek men and women are extending a helping hand to the districts liberated from the German invaders. At factories, for instance, a movement for production over and above plan of articles and goods for shipment to the liberated areas has gained wide scope. Many enterprises are shipping machinery and tools they can do without, while the collective farms send both foodstuffs and agricultural implements. Hundreds of Uzbek men and women have volunteered for work in the war-stricken areas to help repair the damage inflicted by the Germans and revive life to normal.

When Hitler launched his attack against the Soviet Union, he counted on sowing discord among the Soviet people as a means of achieving his aim of subjugating them. The example of Uzbekistan reveals fully how

badly he miscalculated. Far from weakening the friendship of the peoples of the USSR, the Nazi aggression has served only to strengthen it. Like all the members of the Soviet commonwealth of nations, the Uzbek people know very well that German victory would mean the loss of their liberty and independence. Hence the all-out effort invested by the people of our republic.

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### XXIII

#### **Interview with Rakhim Ibrahimov, President, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the Bashkirian Autonomous Republic.**

**T**HE Bashkirian Autonomous Soviet Republic is the largest autonomous republic in the RSFSR. It covers over 140,000 square kilometres and has a population of over three million. The capital of the republic, Ufa, is a large industrial centre.

I came to see Rakhim Ibrahimov, President of the Supreme Soviet, the Bashkirian republic, soon after the termination of the recent session of the Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR, which he attended as a Deputy from Bashkiria.

My first question was how the Bashkirs were fighting in the war.

"We have no cause for dissatisfaction on this score", he replied. "Bashkiria has supplied to the Red Army hundreds of thousands of fighters who have given a good account of themselves in the fight for our common country, the USSR. Many of them have covered themselves with glory. The title of Hero of the Soviet Union has been conferred on 73 sons of the Bashkirian people. Alexander Matrosov, whose name has become famous throughout the world for the immortal feat he performed in covering the aperture of an enemy pillbox with his own body, was a

member of the Comsomol in Ufa. Bashkiria has given the Red Army excellent snipers. Habibarkahma Kurbangaliev, a hunter and an excellent sharp-shooter, who regularly used to hit a squirrel right in the eye, is now relentlessly destroying the German invaders. He has already accounted for two hundred fritzies and has been decorated with two orders. The attack gunner, Miniahmet Zianghirev, sailor of the Black Sea fleet, who took part in the heroic defence of Odessa and Sevastopol has been decorated with the American medal "For Distinguished Service." Our Bashkirian mounted division has piled up a splendid score of successes in action. Our dashing horsemen have done for many thousands of German intruders. The division has earned the Red Banner of Guards. Four hundred of its men have been decorated. The division was among those that captured the city of Chernigov and has been named the Chernigov Division. Incidentally, don't you think that this Bashkirian Division bearing the name of an Ukrainian town provides a vivid illustration of the unity among the peoples of our country? For its part in the capture of Mozyr and Kalinkovichi the division was decorated with the Order of Red Banner".

I asked Ibrahimov about the economic efforts of the Bashkirian republic.

"Since the beginning of the war", he stated, "Bashkiria's industry has grown by leaps and bounds. Several dozen large factories were transferred to our Republic from the West. They were quickly installed and put into operation. The gross output of our industries has been trippled as compared with the year 1940. During the years of the war capital investments in Bashkiria's industries have amounted to 1126 million rubles as against 754 million rubles in the three pre-war years. The exploration and exploitation of the Bashkirian oilfields is going on at full blast. A considerable progress has also been made by local industries working in local raw material and in-

dustrial waste products. In the past year alone 108 new factories were put into operation".

To the question as to how the Bashkirian republic has solved the problem of labour power to replace the large fraction of male population that have joined the army, Ibrahimov replied, "In the first place, we have got aid of our youths. Hundreds of thousands of youngsters have come to the factories. Trade schools and factory apprentice schools alone have given us 20,000 skilled workers. Our youth work with great enthusiasm. In our factories we have 1394 Youth Brigades of which 454 systematically exceed their production quotas and have earned the honour of calling themselves front brigades. Besides, there are thousands of women, who after seeing their husbands off to the front, come to factories to replace them. And they are doing splendid work. Take, for instance, Massiliena, mother of three children. She never worked in a factory before the war. Now she is a turret-lathe operator and is producing three hundred per cent of her quota. Dora Asadulina, 53 years old, who has five sons at the front, is also working in a factory now. Bukhareva working in a clothing factory is daily producing triple of her quota. A former housewife, Sobilyanskaya whose husband is a hero of Odessa and Sevastopol, is at present working as a despatcher in a factory. Women have played particularly an important part in agriculture. It may be said without exaggeration that our successes in agriculture we owe to women. And ours are not mean successes. Take reaping and thrashing. In 1943 they were completed earlier than in the previous years. Our autumn sowing plan was exceeded by 130,000 hectares. Our collective-farms carried out a plan of meat deliveries to the state and in addition contributed 8,000 horses, 15,000 heads of cattle and 15,000 sheep and goats for the population of the liberated districts.

"The population of Bashkiria have contributed 132 million roubles to build air squadrons named Bashkirian

Fighter. Our aero-planes are already doing good work at the front. We have sent to the Red Army half a million pieces of warm clothing including 78 thousand pairs of felt boots. Our people have sent to the front two hundred and sixty waggon loads with gifts. In three years of the war we have subscribed 725 million rubles to state loans and sold 250 million roubles worth of tickets for State lottery. These figures are evidence of the patriotism of the Bashkirian people, as of the many peoples in of the great Soviet Union".

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## XXIV

### UDMURTS ON THE FRONT.

By A. ARNOLDov.

**T**HE numerous nationalities of the Soviet Union are participating in the sacred struggle for liberation of their country from the German fascist invaders. Among the warriors of the Red Army may be seen representatives of various races and nationalities. Udmurts, too, are actively fighting the Germans at the front.

Udmurts or Votiaks as they were called in the past, inhabit in compact masses the territory of the Udmurt Autonomous Soviet Republic that borders on the Urals.

The Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of Udmurts grew out of the Votsk Autonomous Region formed in 1921. The Republic now has a population of 1,200,000 inhabitants. More than half of them are Udmurts. Prior to the Revolution the Udmurts lived chiefly in villages. Agriculture at that time was at an extremely low level and livestock raising was poorly developed. Naturally the Udmurts were very backward.

Soviet power brought the Udmurts to the broad road of economic and cultural development. Mass collectivisation of the peasantry on the basis of a high agricultural



technique, rapid growth of social collective farm, livestock husbandry, opening of hundreds of schools and clubs—all this has made the peasantry of Udmurtia prosperous and cultured. Scores of industrial enterprises sprung up, higher educational establishments, were opened. Udmurt newspapers, magazines, books and theatres made their appearance. The Udmurts, who, prior to the Revolution were a poor and culturally backward people, for the first time perceived that they had a motherland and had become imbued with an ardent love for her.

When the war with Hitlerite Germany began thousands of Udmurts voluntarily joined the Red Army. In the battles for their country they proved themselves bold and skilful soldiers. They displayed high valour, courage and personal daring.

In one of the battles Ivanov, an Udmurt, closed the embrasure of an enemy pill-box with his body. The fascist machinegun was silenced. Ivanov perished but by his valiant act he ensured the success of the operation of the advancing Soviet unit.

Udmurts are far-sighted, experienced hunters. Most of them have become super-sharpshooters, wonderful snipers. Grigori Korenakov, an Udmurt from the town of Glazov, exterminated with his sniper's rifle 87 Hitlerites in a very short period. Tarenti Mokhuichev, an Udmurt blacksmith from the village of Kotlovka, Glazov District, killed 157 Hitlerites.

Arkadi Utkin, an Udmurt collective farmer from Glazov District, came to the front as a rank-and-filer, and now he is commander of a gun crew. In one of the battles nine tanks moved against his gun. By the very first shots the brave artilleryman set ablaze the enemy head tank, then he hit a second and a third. Thereupon the rest of the enemy machines turned on their heels.

Lieutenant Solomennikov, an Udmurt tankman, for

merly a tractor driver and, now a senior technician, has to his personal credit the destruction of 52 German tanks, 60 guns of various calibres, 25 tommy-guns, 10 traction engines and more than 200 enemy soldiers and officers. For his fighting services the Soviet Government awarded him with the Order of Lenin and the Order of the Red Star. Nikolai Obukhov, a worker of an Izhevsk factory is famous at the front as an experienced and skilful scout. For his valiant reconnaissance operations the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR has endowed him with the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

Representatives of the Udmurt intelligentsia are likewise fighting manfully. Udmurt writers are gallantly fighting at the front. Guards Lieutenant Ignati Gavrilov, a playwright and poet, in one of the battles killed 13 Hitlerites in a hand-to-hand encounter. Philipp Kedrov, another Udmurt Poet, is an active fighter against the Nazis. For his services in the war he has been awarded the Order of Red Star.

Their names of thousands of sons of the Udmurt people will be inscribed on the rolls of honour of Red Army heroes.

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## XXV

### The Flash of the Tajik Blades . . ."

Radzhab Ali, The Tajik Deputy.

ON the day after he had delivered his speech at the tenth session of the Supreme Soviet USSR I met the Tajik Deputy, Radzhab Ali Dzhalilov in "Moscow" in a hotel in the centre of the capital. We could see the towers of the Kremlin from his window. The young man, Radzhab Dzhalilov seemed still elated by his recent impressions at the session. A sturdy figure, he is a cavalryman, he is light and agile. His dark features lit up.

"I find the Russian language difficult, though, as you see, I am a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Red Army and I fought against the Germans side by side with Russian divisions. At the session of the Supreme Soviet, the Deputies may, of course, speak in their native languages or in Russian as they choose". He paused and then continued: "In 1941 we were defending Moscow side by side with General Panfilov's Division".

He told me about the great battle of Stalingrad. It was bitterly cold and the Tajik cavalymen were only warm by their love of country and in the slight comfort they could derive from their horses beneath them. Between Kotelnikovo and Abganerov the Tajiks extricated an infantry division surrounded by the Germans. In this engagement they revealed the full force of fraternal cooperation which sustains the Soviet Union on the front and the rear. The Tajik Division sowed terror among the Germans, particularly among the Rumanians. The mere flash of the Tajik blades at a distance was sufficient to send them running from their machinegun nests and blockhouses with the dread cry: "The Tajiks are coming!" The enemy surrendered in batches.

"How else could it be", said Radzhab; "the Rumanians are at war for plunder, while every Tajik knows that on the banks of the Don, in the steppes of the Ukraine and in Leningrad he is defending the land of all Soviet peoples. The Soviet Union is equally cherished by the Tajik and the Ukrainian, the Russian and the Georgian".

I remarked to Radzhab that he had done himself an injustice. He spoke Russian as easily as he did his native language. He smiled and, in the eastern manner, acknowledged the compliment by placing his small hand to his breast which was decorated with the Badge of Honour and the little Red flag designating him as member of the Supreme Soviet and Deputy of Soviet Parliament.

"For this I am indebted to the great Russian people.

I am the son of a simple craftsman tanner. My father used to macbrute his leather in irrigation canals. Ours was a large family and all of them were tanners. But I grew up in the Soviet times, a far happier man than my father who lived from hand to mouth. I am now responsible for the military training of the youth in Tajikistan and I am trying to justify the confidence of the people who have sent me to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR. I have had to do a lot of studying, of course. A graduate from the Stalin Eastern University, I am still studying today. Often enough during the war have I been awake for 48 hours in succession, but secured to pommel my saddle, I have always kept up my study. There is so much to learn you know.

"After the war I hope to see Tajikistan a flourishing and more cultured country than ever before. So it will be! In my speech yesterday I defended the budget of my republic which comes to 532 million rubles which means a thirty percent increase despite the war. What does this increase in our budget imply? It means that we shall continue to build new factories, plants, hydro-power stations; that we shall continue to educate our youth.

"Figures alone, of course, cannot tell the story. Let me give you an example: In the hills one day I saw an old Tajik woman reaping in a wheat field. Believing that she would complain that the fate was hard I asked gently, how are you getting on Grandma'. She straightened up and replied, fine my son.' I am reaping two hectares of grain a day.

"I am sure you can't do any more than that. Just feel how sharp is the blade of my scythe. Should Joseph Stalin call me, my hand won't tremble even behind a gun'. I laughed and told her that things would never come to such a pass. Before we parted, I asked how old she was. 'Eighty' was the answer.

Radzhab Dzhaliilov smiled, his eyes twinkling good

humouredly. "That is how they all are—the Tajiks; young and old! They love their Soviet homeland and are ready to do and sacrifice all for victory."

## XXVI

### THE HISTORIC BUDGET SESSION The Supreme Soviet Meets

BY ANNA KARAVAYEVA.

**Y**OU, our friends, in sultry India and other hot climes, will find it difficult to imagine the northern winter with its frost and snow. This year the winter is mild in Moscow, and January seems more like the end of March.

On January 28 I cross a spacious square in the centre of Moscow carpeted with a thin but dazzling fresh snow. On the dial of black-like thick velvet-clock on the Spasski Tower the hands indicate quarter to two; the clock strikes melodiously and muffled chimes slowly melt in the soft humid air. I pass through the arches of the Spasski Gates encompassed by severe silence. History itself looks at us from these Kremlin battlements, from these ancient towers. Many a time have I been to the Kremlin and it always rouses in me a strange kind of emotion—this grand memoria and the witness of many ages of the history of our Moscow. Ivanveliki Belfry (the "Big Ben" of ancient Moscow) rises with its dome high in the pearl-grey sky. Here too stand the famous cathedrals, Uspensk from the fifteenth century and Archangelski from the beginning of the sixteenth century where the Russian Tsars used to be crowned. Through these temple gates ornamental with monumental paintings still preserving their original tints and gilt—would enter Ivan the Third, the great sovereign of all Russia—Tsar Ivan the Terrible "the gentlest Tsar, Alexeimikhailovich, and his son, the young eagle Tsar

Peter the First, that great reformer of Russia. Cast in copper and bronze; the cathedral bells become green with age but the cathedrals themselves are strong as ever: they are in a splendid state of preservation like all the antiquities of our Kremlin.

And here provided with light is the white and gold staircase of the large Kremlin Palace. What an animation, and what multitude of people . . . Naturally, no previous session of the USSR'S Supreme Soviet were there so many militarymen as at the present one.

It is a picturesque sight: red trouser stripes of generals, gold silver and khaki field shoulder straps; proud glittering decorations and here, too, are austere jackets of sailors with their orders shining on a dark cloth. And many civilians likewise proudly wear orders on their breasts. The Gold Medal of Hero of Socialist Labour flashes on some Deputies. Here and there glisten, like bright bouquets, beautiful silk embroidered oriental caps on the heads of men and women, as if they had brought with them all the rich colours of the southern nature. And what a number of southern faces: young and old Uzbeks, Tajiks, Kazakhs. . . . As always, the Deputies of Georgia stand out by their beautiful eyes and complexion--Georgians are one of the most handsome peoples not only in our country but perhaps in the whole world. Add to this play of colour and movement the restrained but the lively sound of many voices and the tread of thousands of feet on the sparkling parquette floors; and it will not be difficult for you to understand the emotion of anyone who watches this picture, even though he sees it not for the first time. All these colours and all this animation are near and dear to one's heart and eyes as an expression or the triumph of that harmonious and all powerful labour in the name of which the elect of the Soviet

people have assembled here in the halls of the large Kremlin Palace.

With a rapt attention do the deputies listen to the report on the budget.

"A rich budget" whispers a colonel young in looks but with a tough grey on his temples, to his neighbour, a youthful Red Armyman with rosy cheeks. "A magnificent budget."

"Quite right, comrade colonel", answers the Red Armyman in a merry tone "such a budget means the death of Germans . . . . ." And he makes a characteristic gesture.

And, indeed, all the items of the 1944 budget are directed towards hastening the day of victory over the German fascist invaders. Of the total sum of the budget expenditure totalling 246 milliard six hundred million rubles, more than 128 milliard are set apart for financing the People's Commissariat of Defence and the People's Commissariat of Navy. A quantity of splendid munitions our beloved Red Army will receive and how it might will grow as a result of these colossal sums which our state gives for these purposes . . . . And one rejoices all the more in emphasising this when one remembers that the whole 1944 Budget, being a war budget and a budget of the coming victory, is also the budget inspired by our real fervour of creativeness.

While providing its armed forces with all they require our state at the height of the war which is unexampled in history finds it possible to devote almost half of its budget to the economic and social and cultural needs. In 1944 we will not only have a great extension of the work of restoration in the Donbas, the Ukraine, Belorussia, as well as cities, regions, villages, collective-farms, railways, cultural and educational institutions devastated by the Hitlerite cut-throats, but, to the sixteen milliard rubles for the sixteen milliard rubles for the

purposes will be added another twenty milliard for capital construction. In the ages to come history will note what a mighty new industry had grown up in the Soviet Union in the days of the great Patriotic War. I see how sharply this budget looks ahead, how it reflects the care of the Soviet Government for a still greater growth and progress in knowledge and the talents of all generations and all peoples of our multinational state. The Government has taken care that, at the end of the present year, four million two hundred thousand more children than at the beginning of the year should attend school, that 422 thousand more children be admitted in kindergartens, that the number brought up in children's homes should increase by 72 thousand and that the number of students in our higher educational establishments should rise 120 thousand and in technical schools 204 thousand as compared with the last year. This word "more" we hear in everything in this budget. It mirrors the might of our state which has become still stronger. What is the "secret" of this might? Many countries, including Tsarist Russia, failed to pass the test of war in the first World War.

Had you heard the speeches by the representatives of the fraternal republics of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenia, Georgia and others you would without difficulty have gained an idea of the inexhaustible source of this might: it lies in *the friendship among the peoples and in the might of the country that has become a war camp*. While fully approving of all the items in the budget all the deputies try to find additional sources for enhancing the financial strength of the country. One advises the government to turn its attention to new, still insufficiently tapped mineral riches of his republic; another suggests measures for further rationalisation of production and a third proposes various means for economising the expenditure which would also bring greater revenue in the treasury.



Imbued with an ardent care for the common cause, all the Deputies—proud of the results achieved by the fraternal peoples under the Soviet power, contribute, as one man to the sacred cause of victory over the enemy. How many times, inspired by this pride and love for their country, the Deputies of all the fraternal republics, after a most serious enumeration of figures and facts, broke out in a storm of cheers for Stalin, for the Red Army and for the friendship among peoples; each hailing them in his own native tongue. Under the arches of the old Kremlin palace Russian, Ukrainian, Georgian, Belo Russian, Kazakh and other languages sound a wonderful note of triumph and youth. Is the budget only a column of figures. It is more than that: it stands for the friendship of labour and the unbending will for victory among the Soviet people—brothers all!

I go out on the wide porch of the Palace. The evening has set in. The Kremlin is canopied by the moonlight sky. The Spasski Tower stands out in a tall silhouette against the background of the haze of moonlight from yellow clouds. At the top of the tower you see a dim pencil-grey star which, however, does not shine. Like all other lights in war time, it is blacked out. But the day is not far distant when our peaceful victorious sky, our lovely Kremlin stars will once more shine in all the glory of their ruby light.

## CHAPTER XXVII

### THE WARTIME SOVIET BUDGETS. Demonstration of People's Heroism.

BY PROFESSOR M. BOGOLEPOV.

**T**HE heroism of the Soviet people finds expression not only in such remarkable facts as the failure of the Germans and Finns to achieve anything by their more than two years' siege of Leningrad, the city that embodies the invincible spirit and unsurpassed courage of the Soviet people. This heroism pervades all everyday life and activities of the great country and is vividly reflected in all matters, great and small, connected with the struggle against the enemy.

A careful study of the three wartime budgets of the Soviet state shows that in this sphere, too—in the sphere of financing the war effort—the same all-encompassing heroism of the fighting Soviet people is strikingly manifest.

The direct war expenditures of the Soviet Union, *i.e.* the expenditures on maintaining, equipping and supplying the Soviet armies on the entire farflung active and mobile front, total *about 350 million rubles daily*. In the first year and a half these expenditures amounted to about 300 million rubles daily. The task of meeting these huge expenditures would not have presented any serious difficulties if in the first year of the war the enemy had not managed as the result of his treacherous attack, to seize *large areas of densely populated and economically extremely important Soviet territory*.

Indeed, the report on the fulfilment of the budget for the last prewar year (1940) shows that in that year the *revenues of the state amounted to 500 million rubles daily*. Under pressure of necessity they could be increased without particular difficulty and, by exercise of retrenchment in regard to peacetime requirements, the

necessary 300 to 350 million rubles daily could be obtained for the waging of the war.

But the daily revenue of 500 million rubles came from the entire territory of the Soviet Union and was made up primarily of the income of state-owned enterprises. The capture by the Germans of fertile and industrial regions of the Soviet Union *considerably reduced the economic base of the Soviet budget.*

From the very first day of the war it was clear that the enemy based his calculations on the economic and financial disorganization of the Soviet Union. But these calculations proved utterly wrong. The enemy *failed correctly to assess the economic might of the Soviet Union and the true heroism of the Soviet people.* The *Budget for 1944* just adopted by the Supreme Soviet is balanced at 249 milliard rubles, representing an increase of 38.5 percent over the *budget for 1940.* When this budget for 249 milliard rubles was being drawn up, part of the territory of the Soviet Union was still under the heel of the Germans, and large expenses already liberated from the contemporary barbarians lay in ruins. Consequently it is the work and energy of the people in the part of the Soviet Union unaffected by the fascist invasion that has made good the revenue losses resulting from the German occupation and the ruin of a part of Soviet territory and made it possible to increase the Budget by 38.5 percent as compared with *the peace year, 1940.*

The extent of the revenue increases in the places which remained inaccessible to the Germans may be gauged from the budget of the city of Moscow, for instance. In 1942 the revenues which went to cover the budget of the city of Moscow amounted to 1 milliard 100 million rubles, in 1943 to 1 milliard 800 million rubles and the estimate for 1944 is 2 milliard rubles. We have purposely taken as an example the budget of Moscow which, like the budgets of other cities, com-

prises part of the general budget of the USSR. During a long period Moscow was close to the front, and about half of Moscow Region was laid waste by the fascist scoundrels. Nevertheless Moscow went on working successfully as evidenced by the growth of its budget.

In the energetic work of the Soviet people and in their patriotic fervour lies the explanation of the unquestionable financial successes of the Soviet Union. This idea was well expressed in a speech during the debate on the Budget in the Supreme Soviet by Deputy Dinuhametov of the Tartar Autonomous Soviet Republic. He said that the aged persons and women who stay at home told their menfolk who went to the front: "The hammers from beneath which sparks flew when wielded by your strong arms are not lying idle on the ground; the machines at which you worked have not stopped running; the scythes with which you mowed hay not grown rusty; the tractors and harvester combines whose clatter filled the free fields have not come to a standstill; the fire has not gone out in the fire boxes of locomotives and furnaces of steamships. Our fathers, mothers, sisters have replaced you at your machines and in the collective farm fields."

Vast quantities of industrial equipment were successfully evacuated from the districts threatened by the invasion and they served as the basis for the speedy resumption of production in new districts far removed from the front. The switching over to wartime economy the resumption of the operation of evacuated enterprises new places, the quick and successful building of new enterprises and the considerable expansion of existing plants all involved large budgetary expenditures. The direct war expenditures in 1944 will consume about 52 percent of the revenues or a little more than a half. On the other half, 44 milliard 700 million rubles are to be invested in national economy, primarily

in industrial construction (24.7 percent). In 1941 such expenditures over 31 milliard rubles.

The increase of appropriations in the Budget for 1944 an economic investments to the amount of 43.7 percent over 1943 is largely due to the fact that immediately the enemy is expelled from any district energetic work begins there *to rehabilitate the economy*.

A remarkable feature of the Soviet budgets in war time is the fact that, despite the strain on resources to finances the war effort, large funds are appropriated to satisfy the social and cultural requirements of the population. In 1943 expenditures on such requirements totalled over 37 milliard rubles. The budget for 1944 appropriates 51 milliard 400 million rubles to meet these requirements (an increase of 38.2 percent). Scientific institutions, schools, medical institutions, far from narrowing the scope of their activities, have expended it

One of the principal reasons for the brilliant victories scored by the Soviet armies is that these armies draw their manpower from a population which in the last two decades has risen to a considerable higher level of culture the cultural revolution extended to all the parts of the great country, and the expenditures on cultural requirements have shown a particularly repaid rise in those parts where until recently reigned age-old backwardness.

For instance, in the budget of the Turkmenian SSR for 1944 the expenditures on social and cultural services represent 64 percent of the total expenditures of the public and the triple the amount expended in 1941.

In wartime, as in time of peace, the principal source of the Soviet Union's revenues is the income

from state owned and cooperative enterprises and property. In the 1944 budget this source accounts for 150 milliard rubles or over 60 percent of the total. The revenues from the population, which have increased in wartime, account for 39 milliard rubles (about 16 percent of the total) and subscriptions to loans for 24 milliard rubles, about 10 percent).

The floating of loans among the population has been attending by splendid success. All the loans have been considerably oversubscribed in a short period of time. In addition to the loans, the population, in its patriotic enthusiasm, has already contributed over 13 milliard rubles to the Defence Fund which is made up entirely of voluntary contributions. To this fund stream not only cash, but grain, gold, silver. Women and girl of Turkmenia contributed over 7½ tons of gilded silver articles, cherished as family heirlooms for ages.

The huge state budget of the USSR, which comprises the budget of the federation, of the several republics and of the local self-government bodies, represents a gigantic force.

## XXVIII

### THE VICTORY BUDGET.

BY MIKHAIL CHIAURELI.

Deputy to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR ;  
Stalin Prize-Winner and well-known Georgian  
motion picture director.

It is with great expectation that deputies from all parts of the Soviet Union gathered together in Moscow for the tenth session of the Supreme Soviet, USSR. The session

took place at the time when the Red Army had scored fresh victories over the German invaders and brought nearer the hour of final victory.

The firmness and solidarity of our peoples and their unshaken will for victory was once again revealed at the session. An exhaustive discussion on the 1944 State Budget took place. An all out effort for victory must now be made by the Soviet nation. Appropriations for the war were set at 128.4 milliard rubles, a sum sufficient to provide the Red Army and the Navy with everything they require. At the same time enormous funds were assigned for social and cultural measures.

At the present time the Soviet people must make an intense effort to rehabilitate, in the shortest possible time, the towns and villages devastated by the German vandals. Special appropriations have been set aside for this urgent work.

The 1944 State Budget speaks for the ever increasing power of the Soviet Union. The war has not put an end to the economic development of our country. It fills you with pride to think that such progress is being achieved at the time when the Soviet peoples are waging a tremendous struggle against the beastly foe.

Vyacheslav Molotov's report concerning the reorganisation of the People's Commissariats of Defence and Foreign Affairs was listened to with the greatest attention. The very fact that these questions were raised at the height of the war testifies to the unshaken friendship among the peoples in the USSR and to their confidence in the victory which is fast approaching.

Two laws extending the powers of the Union Republics were passed at the tenth session of the Supreme Soviet. The first provides for the formation of army units in the Union Republics, while the second allows these republics to have direct relations with foreign states. The new law

will increase the power of the Soviet State and widen its connections with the outside world.

The two thousand deputies who gathered together in the Kremlin Palace made historical decisions to the accompaniment of guns thundering to salute the new victories scored by the Red Army. The storm of applause that broke out each time Marshal Stalin appeared in the hall expressed the great love with which the Soviet people regard their leader.

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## XXIX

### Interview with Professor Vladimir Mysh. Renowned Soviet Surgeon.

BY SVETLOV.

TO the tenth session of the Supreme Soviet, USSR, recently held in Moscow, numerous members of the Soviet Parliament arrived from all parts of the vast country. As a newspaperman I had occasion to meet and speak to many of them. But one of the most interesting conversations I had was with Professor Vladimir Mysh, an old and wise man who came to take part in the deliberations of the Supreme Soviet from his distant severe, but in its own way, beautiful Siberia where he has been living and working for many years.

I had heard and read about this outstanding Soviet scientist and surgeon, and about his skilful amazing operations. When I obtained his consent for the interview I went to meet him in his Hotel Metropol. The lift took me up to the fifth floor. The door of room number 572 opened in response to my knock and before me stood the professor, small in stature, smiling, affable and brisk in his movements, despite his seventy-two years. On his head he wore a black fez which sharply contrasted with his snow white big moustache, and blue quite youthful eyes.



I took only a few minutes for me to feel as if that I had known the man many years and spoken with him many times.

"Interview?" mused the scientist. "To tell the truth I have always had a certain dread of interviews. It so hard to speak of oneself".

"Well, Professor, I want to ask you only two questions. One is about your impressions of the Supreme Soviet's session, and the other is about Siberia: how you and your friends and pupils are working there, far behind the lines; the city where you are living is far from the front yet it is so near to it....."

"There is a great deal to be said of the session. My impressions are overwhelming. For the matters that occupied our attention and thoughts those days are truly momentous. Take the budget which the session approved. I have never had occasion to deal much with figures. But our new budget profoundly stirred us. We rejoiced at it. I am a patriot and I was happy that over half of the budgetary expenditure was to go to finance our efforts for ensuring our victory. I am a physician and was happy to learn that the 1944 expenditures on public health services exceed the 1943 expenditures by 24 per cent, that an additional half a million children are to be accommodated in kindergartens and 72000 children's homes. This means that we are bringing up a healthy young generation. I am a scientist and my heart could not help beating faster when I heard that nearly one and a half million rubles are appropriated for the requirements of the scientific research institute".

A knock at the door interrupted our conversation. Another member of the Supreme Soviet, an old friend of the Professor, came in to say goodbye. He was leaving for Caucasus that evening. I recalled much that I have heard and read about the Professor.

Born at St. Petersburg he went to the remote Siberia at the age of twenty-eight, braving the hardships of work there. Today Vladimir Mysh is a renowned scientist. His skill and

particularly, his surgical operations in the sphere of the cerebrum and the spinal cord have gained him fame far beyond Novosibirsk—the city where he was living and working. Three years ago his admirers celebrated the forty-fifth anniversary of his scientific, medical and pedagogical activity. In those forty-five years he wrote over a hundred scientific works, taught several thousand of physicians and performed over thirty thousand operations. Each operation was a life saved.

When the visitor left the Professor continued,

“ You wanted to know how we are working far behind the lines and what is our contribution to the war effort. You yourself have put it quite well : our city is far from the front, yet very near. That is true. I was in charge of clinic during peacetime. Now it has become a military hospital. I am the chief surgeon of all hospitals in Novosibirsk. That hospital of curative surgery is now being supplanted by plastic surgery : It is not enough to cure a patient—we must return to the front the soldier, the country's defender. I am seventy-two years now. My friends and my wife made me promise that I would not operate more than three times a week. But I must confess I often deceive them. I had eighteen assistants. Now only few of them are with me in the clinic and most of them are at the front working as surgeons. Even in trenches do they manage to write scientific works, which are highly valued. Recently I received a touching letter from the army praising my pupils who under fire, had saved hundreds of lives. My colleagues and I are doing our utmost for civilian health protection too. We visit war factories, examine patients, give them advice and treat them. At that time we manage to do some scientific work too. At present I am reading the proofs of the second part of my work on surgical diagnostics ”.

I took leave of the Professor who, though old in years, young in spirits. When I was already at the door the Professor said, “ Apropos of what I told you before about the session of the Supreme Soviet and about the budget I

would like to add this : Our budget is not just money. It is also the gift of our great people of its creative genius and spiritual vigour. So you may add this too, that we are devoting it to.

**Our country, our people, our victory.**

XXX

### Germans Arrive In Moscow, At Last !

**T**HE RICH Blom is Lieutenant Colonel of the German army. Thirty-four years old, he has spent seventeen of them, exactly half of his life, in the army. He has been on the Soviet-German front since June 22, 1941 and has climbed long on the service ladder from company to regimental commander in aviation division. Equally long was the road he traversed with the German forces of occupation: from Brest to Orel and from Orel to Minsk. He has received all possible German orders and decorations and was pleased to explain, "I have received eleven orders and medals. In June 1st, received the Iron Cross of Knighthood from the hands of the army commander himself". Blom was wounded three times, twice severely and once lightly. Of slight stature, erect, well-trained his light hair closely-cropped, he is a professional soldier with a hard, grey stare and is a proficient killer.

"What were you thinking about in June 1941?" asked him.

"We", he replied stiffly, "were thinking of entering Moscow".

"And now you have done—a little more than three years later".

"Jawohl", he muttered looking uneasily to the right and left.

This talk with the German Lieutenant Colonel took place on a vast plot of ground in the suburbs of Moscow.

Surrounded by tall fence the grounds spread away from the tower in the centre. The major sport events in the capitals are usually held here where there is room for tens of thousands of spectators. Now the grounds were crowded with German soldiers and officers, temporary station for tens of thousands of prisoners. Only a few days ago they were captured on the fields of Belo-Russia. Then they made a trip to Moscow, and from here they will be sent to various camps for prisoners of war. This vast field is not the only temporary station for war prisoners in Moscow. Fifty-seven thousand six hundred prisoners, an entire army, arrived in all. Only two to three weeks ago these Nazis had attempted to stem the advance of the Red Army with avalanche of fire. Resisting desperately, they had clung to every foot of the Soviet soil. The mighty drive of the Soviet troops overcame their defence lines and "walls", sent them fleeing in all directions through fields and woods of Belo-Russia, hammered their army corps, divisions and regiments into a paste. Gathered on the playgrounds of the capital now were remnants of Germans who had fought at Mogilev Borisov and Minsk.

**Not as Victors But as Captives Thanks to  
Army of the Peoples—the Red Army**

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XXXI

**THE RED ARMY :  
Army Of Friendship Among Peoples.**

by LIEUTENANT COLONEL L. GATOVSKY.

**T**HE Red Army has greatly added to the fighting traditions of the great Russian people and the Russian army. Under the Soviet system the glorious national characteristics of the Russian soldier have found their full

play, and these heroic characteristics have been taken over by the soldiers of all the nationalities in the Soviet Union. Therein lies the strength of the Soviet system which has given all the peoples in our country equal rights, and has stimulated their political, economic and cultural progress. All the peoples of the Soviet Union, including those who, before the establishment of the Soviet system, were kept out from the armed forces of the state, as, for instance, the Uzbeks, Kazakhs, Tajiks, Kirghiz and Turkmenians are now sharing in the honourable duty of defending their Soviet fatherland.

The laws on the reorganization of the People's Commissariat for Defence and the People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs from the All Union into Union Republican People's Commissariats, which were passed by the tenth session of the Supreme Soviet, USSR, represent the new brilliant victory of our multi-national state, and will evoke a still greater patriotic enthusiasm among the peoples of our country.

The full development of national military formations could not be achieved as long as no cadres of soldiers, especially commanders, had been trained in sufficient numbers in the Union Republics. At present have been created necessary opportunities for the organisation of military formations in the Union Republics. "All the republics have not only cadres of rank and file fighters but also certain cadres commanding a personnel capable of directing the respective army units. Thus, at present the creation of army formations in the Union Republics can be placed on a firm foundation." (Molotov).

Let us cite several examples of the growth of national cadres in the ranks of the Red Army. The 416th Azerbaijani Red Banner Division has twice been cited by Marshal Stalin for the capture of Taganrog and Melitopol. The 89th Armenian Division has distinguished itself in the fighting on the Taman peninsula and has been named the Taman Division. The 414th Division, made up of Geor-

igans, has distinguished itself in fighting on the Black Sea coast.

The Lithuanian Division, 3300, whose men and commanders have been decorated with orders and medals, has twice been cited by the Supreme Commander-in Chief for its distinguished services. The Esthonian national units exterminated over three and a half thousand and took as prisoners over fifteen hundred of Hitlerites only in the winter of 1942—43. In some subunits of the Esthonian national corps all the men and officers have decorated by the government.

In the ranks of the Red Army are eight hundred thousand Belo-Russians, among them thousands of officers, four admirals and 157 generals. Among the Red Army generals are thirty Armenians and tens of Letts, Esthonians and Lithuanians. Numerous expert officers, among them regimental brigade and divisional commanders, are sons of the Uzbek people who, in the Pre-Soviet times, were kept out of the armed forces.

Over twenty-one thousand Belo-Russians, officers and men, have been decorated with orders and medals. Among those on whom the state has conferred the title of Hero of the Soviet Union are eighty Kazakhs, scores of Uzbeks and Tatars, over twenty-five Armenians. The famed Eighth Guards Division named after Major General Panfilov, was made up of largely Kazakhs and Kirghiz. The men of the Eighth heroic Panfilov Guardsmen who, with their own bodies, barred the way to German tanks during the battle for Moscow, were the members of these two nationalities.

Partisans, too, represent a source of large, first class cadres for military formations in the Union Republics. Thus, after two years of struggle against the German invaders, over fifty thousand Belo-Russian partisans had joined the ranks of the army which entered the territory of Belo-Russia. During the present Patriotic War the partisans helped over 150000 Belo-Russians, from German-

occupied areas, to cross the frontline and join the Red Army. Two thousand collective farmers of the Vitebsk region, armed with whatever they could lay hands on, fought their way to the frontline to join the Red Army.

The following are a few examples illustrating the vast proportions which the partisan movement assumed in the areas temporarily occupied by the Germans in the Union Republics on the western frontiers of the USSR.

Only during the second half of 1943 the Ukrainian partisans accounted for tens of thousands of German officers and men, derailed hundreds of military trains and, according to incomplete data, destroyed 158 tanks, 1310 Motorcars and fifteen ammunition dumps. The Ukrainian partisans rendered an extremely valuable assistance to the Red Army in forcing the rivers Dnieper, Desna and Pripet. Even before the Red Army arrived, the captured crossings and attacked Germans from the rear. Early in January over two thousand Ukrainian partisans were awarded Orders and Medals for Valour. The names of the legendary sons of the Ukrainian people, the leaders of the Ukrainian partisans, twice Heroes of the Soviet Union—Kovpak and Fyodorov—are known throughout the Soviet Union.

Partisans were active in the Baltic countries, too. During the second half of 1943 only a part of the Lithuanian partisans wrecked fifty-six German trooptrains. In these wrecks thousands of the Hitlerites lost their lives and large quantities of war materials were destroyed. Their daring attack on the city of Vilnius is a striking example of the Lithuanian partisans' courage.

*The striking expression of friendship among the people, which represents a source of strength to the Red Army, is to be found in the fact that the great feat of the Hero of the Soviet Union, Alexander Matrosov, who, with his own body, stopped up the aperture to an enemy pillbox, has been emulated by the Soviet soldiers of other nationalities.*

The Hero of the Soviet Union, Tuelberdiev, a Kirghiz, though he was suffering from wounds, rushed to an enemy bunker and closed its aperture with his body. Tuelberdiev has been entered on the roll of history as honorary Red Armyman for ever. The Hero of the Soviet Union, Erjigitov, an Uzbek, covered up with his body the muzzle of a German machinegun, thereby enabling his unit to consummate its attack. A similar feat was performed by the Udmurt, Kulikov. During the fighting for the Kuban, the Hero of the Soviet Union, Lar, an Esthonian, was the first to rush to German trench where he destroyed seven fascists and a heavy machinegun. Although severely wounded, he later called his last strength, clept up to the bunker from which the Germans were maintaining intensive fire and covered its aperture with his own body. His last words were: "Beat the Germans". The feat of this hero enabled our unit quickly to rush to the second line of German trenches from which no single German escaped.

The Hero of the Soviet Union, Pulatov, an Uzbek, himself with a bunch of grenades under the thread of a heavy German tank and blew it up. The Azerbaijanian, Kofur Mamedov, lost his own life and saved that of his commander, Lieutenant Sinetisky, a Kazakh; Abdirov emulated the immortal feat of the Belo-Russian, Gastillo, and steered his burning plane to crash at a German tank column.

*The Heroes of the Soviet Union, the Chuvash, Akhayev, the Bashkir, Abdulite, the Esthonian, Arnold Meri, the Uzbek, Shakurov, the Kirghiz, Shopolov, the Turkmenian, Ahmedov, the Kazakh, Ardybekov and the Tatar, Safiulin—are all a personification of the mass heroism displayed by Soviet soldiers of all the nationalities.*



## FRIENDSHIP TRIED IN BATTLE

By V. LUKYANOV.

TWO of them liked to go over. Together the Russian Sergeyev, the Tatar Kamaldinov, without a second's hesitation, brought the butt end of his own rifle down upon a Nazi's skull.

Similar examples of mutual aid among the Soviet fighting men of various Soviet nationalities may be cited without number. On the aforementioned occasion the Tatar, Kamaldinov, Hero of the Soviet Union once again demonstrated by his action how secure is the friendship between the fraternal peoples of the Soviet Union. Their's is, indeed, the friendship that has been tried in battle.

The Georgian, Sergeant Khutsushvili, aptly described *friendship between Red Armymen of various nationalities as follows:*

"In the olden times the Caucasian people had a custom allowed by centuries. Our warriors would permit their blood to drip into a chalice and he who touched that blood was linked with them forever in friendship of honour and glory. Such a chalice has our entire homeland become during the Patriotic War. We have sprinkled this chalice with the fraternal blood of Russians, Georgians, Ukrainians, Uzbeks, Ossetians and Belo-Russians.

"My heart is filled with pride when I think of this fraternal friendship among the men of the Red Army. Shoulder to shoulder in our unit there is the Uzbek Dzhuromanov who has destroyed four German tanks, the Siberian hunter Kokhasko who has annihilated twenty-three Nazis, the Georgian Mamardashvili who have suppressed three fire nests of the enemy, the Ukrainian Prokopenko who has annihilated an enemy machinegun crew. Prokopenko's native Ukraine has been desecrated by the Germans and he is having his revenge during the liberation of Belo-Russia.

His comrade-in-arms is the Uzbek Dzhumanov, as are all of us—fighting together for our great common homeland”.

The friendship among the peoples of the Soviet land is expressed in various ways. One of its most vivid forms appears on the battlefields in struggle against the common enemy.

In the ranks of the Red Army during the Patriotic war against the German invaders one may find representatives of all nationalities of the USSR. Staunch courage, valour and heroism mark them all. Their numerous exploits shall go down in the history of the Patriotic War. Under a single banner are the performing prodigious feats acclaimed by the entire Soviet land.

The Kirghizian Kulbayev was once a zoologist fond of hunting. Now he is a sniper and has accounted for more than fifty Germans. The Armenian Sergeyan is a valiant flyer of the Black Sea fleet. The Russian Red Armyman, Mikhlyusoi, distinguished himself during the battles of Leningrad. The gun crew which he commanded downed five German aircraft within five days. The Order of Red Star graces the chest of the tank driver Prikhodko, son of the Ukrainian people. For six days he and his comrades were besieged in their machine by the enemy. The name of the Kirghizian Guards Senior Sergeant Tuleugali Abdybekov is known all over the front. He has annihilated more than two hundred Nazis.

During the defence of Moscow—Twenty eighth guardsmen of the famous division of General Panfilov faced death at the wayside station of Dubosekovo. They perished to a man, but prevented German tanks from reaching Moscow. Among these Panfilov men there were Russians, Ukrainians and Kazakhs.

On many occasions during the war have fighting men speaking different languages and born in far removed sections of the country displayed a true fraternal spirit.

The snipers and the Heroes of the Soviet Union,

Zanis Vikhelis, Latvian, and Mekhail Gakhonidze, Georgian, each annihilated more than two hundred German soldiers and officers. Deadly accurate has been the trench mortar of the Kirghizian, Abdrashid Batyrbekov. A hundred Nazis were laid low by the Kirghizian, Kalumrsa Dzhusbaliyev and eleven of his comrades. The Azerbaijanian flyer Gusein Aliyev gave battle to several German planes simultaneously. More than a hundred fascists perished at the hands of Ingush Ayui Mankiyev fighting in the north.

In the ranks of the Red Army one may find the Esthonian, Hero of the Soviet Union, Arnold Meri. More than three hundred Latvian infantrymen have been awarded orders and medals of the USSR.

How many were the exploits performed by the Soviet fighting men during the crossing of the Dnieper. Sons of many Soviet peoples distinguished themselves when the river was forced. Some hundreds of them earned the title of hero of the Soviet Union.

When the Soviet troops only began the liberation of the Ukraine, a group of Kazakh Red Armymen knelt on the Ukrainian soil. To them this land was as dear as it was to Ukrainians, Russians, Turkmenians, Tajiks and, indeed, all the fraternal peoples of the USSR.

Henceforth, each of the union republics will have its own army formations. Such has been the decision of the Soviet Parliament at the tenth session of the Supreme Soviet, USSR. Under the banners of the Red Army the fightingmen of fraternal republics shall cherish and continue their national traditions. The decision of the supreme Soviet, USSR, extending the right to the union republics of organising their own army formations testified to the friendship of the USSR's peoples, and is, indeed, an event of great importance in the history of the Red Army.

## WITH THE MOVING PICTURE CAMERA In The Enemy Rear.

BY ELENA KUZNETSOVA.

Pavel Kasatkin, a Cameraman of the Central Studio of Documentary Films, Stalin Winner and order-bearer, recently spent some time behind the enemy frontlines with the partisans in the western regions of Ukraine.

For obvious reasons Pavel Kasatkin does not mention the aims of the partisans raid in which he took part. However this does not prevent his story from giving a clear idea of what is involved in the frontline film reporting.

The formation of Major General Naumov, consisting of several partisan units was to make a rear on the enemy in the western regions of Ukraine," said the cameraman, beginning his story.

"The speed of the Red Army drive in Ukraine made it difficult for us to break away from the frontline. Our formation supported the units of the Red Army in the capture of Rovno and Lutsk.

On January 15th 1944, we secretly crossed the frontline at the town of Setun, on the Styr river. I had with me the usual equipment of a frontline cameraman: a portable moving picture camera, supply films, tommygun and cartridges, pistol, dagger, and grenade as the last resort.

Before us lay the old Austro-Hungarian border strongly fortified and guarded by the Germans, on the other side of which the Germans set up the "galican state." The partisans fought their way across the border and penetrated the enemy positions

First, before the Germans indentified, the partisans formation advanced without meeting strong resistance. The small German garrisons mistaking us for an army unit, made hurried retreat as we advanced. On way I was shooting a film.

But soon the situation changed. We had to cross the western Bug river twenty kilometers from Lvov. A kilometer beyond the river, was the railroad line over which supplies were moved up to the front. Parallel with it was the automobile road. The locale was flat treeless plain, so that all the three obstacles would have to be hurdled in a single rush.

Under cover of darkness we crossed the river at a place where the Germans might least expect it. The partisans took cover at the railroad bed and blew up the approaching train. Two other trains carrying ammunition crashed into the rear cars. This created obstruction, fire broke out, and panic seized the surviving Germans. At point two more trainloads of officers on their way to Germany approached and a fight ensued. The scene was very effective but it was impossible to take pictures because of darkness.

The Germans opened the frontal fire against the partisans to keep them from reaching the road. Fighting had begun at twelve in the midnight and it was not until six next morning that the partisans were able to break through the cross road and seize the farm situated near it.

The Germans brought up reinforcements through the surrounded farm and set fire to it. In the dusk it was so light that I could shoot film with no difficulty.

The fight lasted for twenty-two hours, but in the end the partisans were able to creep out of the encirclement. We kept close to the ground all the following day. We had to go back and cross the road again at a point that was not being patrolled. The

partisans noticelessly removed the guard at the railroad bridge, brought up the whole formation and safely recrossed the railroad line.

Having lost some time in manoeuvring we again moved back to Peremyshele to carry out the assignment.

By that time the situation had become even more difficult. With the assistance of air reconnaissance, the Germans located the partisans and moved a division with tanks and tankettes against them.

It would require much time and space to describe in detail all my experiences all battles in which I took part. I was with the partisans in the most critical situations, hair's breadth from death. There were moments when I had not thought for my camera; I had to fight and fight hard.

Once fighting their way out of encirclement the partisans advanced under barrage machinegun fire. Death awaited us in the rear and on the side, and only in front of us lay life and freedom. I made my way forward through the enemy ring, shooting with my tommygun. Nearby I saw Major General Naumov, who was shooting his way out of the encirclement like others. Our losses were considerable but our assignment have been carried out and the formation preserved.

I will never forget one incident during which a group of partisans who had fought their way across the railroad line was split by the enemy armoured train and the Germans tried to cut it into pieces and destroy it. But the enemy miscalculated. They had over-estimated power of their material and under-estimated power of the patriotic spirit of the partisans and the fighting skill of the command.

In conditions when almost constant combat action closely pursued by superior numbers of enemy, the partisans carried out their raid to end operating near Lvov, Drohobych and Peremishli.

Our assignment was over, we were free to make our way back. It is difficult to describe our emotions as we neared the frontline which in three months made great strides to the west. We listened greedily to the roar of cannonade. Only those who have been on the other side of the front will understand the full meaning of the words, "Mainland".

The Red Army was advancing. Fighting for Dubno was in progress. At the order of the command, our formations occupied the outskirts of the city of the Brody and held it two days until the arrival of the cavalry units of the Red Army.

"And here I am on Mainland," concluded Pavel Kasatkin.

Unfortunately much of the film I shot was lost during one of our numerous river crossings. However I still have 350 meters of the film which reproduce the partisans life. Considerable part of this material is being used in the second series of the film, Battle for our Soviet Ukraine, to be released shortly by the Central Newsreel Studios."

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#### XXXIV

### GUERRILLAS IN BATTLE and on the March.

BY MAJOR GENERAL-SIDOR KOVPAK.

*[The fame of the courageous Ukrainian guerillas and their gallant commanders has spread far and wide. The greatest love and respect of the Soviet people is enjoyed by Sidor Kovpak, the guerilla general who has twice been awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. In his speech at the sixth session of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, Nikita Khrushchev, Chairman, Council of People's Com-*

*missars, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, gave high praise to the force commanded by Koupak. This force has carried out raid through 217 districts and thirteen regions and other German garrisons in thirty-nine district capitals. In the summer of 1943 Koupak led his men on daring expedition from the Kiev region to the Carpathian mountains. In the course of the expedition the guerillas smashed thirteen large German garrisons in the district capitals, blew up thirty-four oil derricks, two oil refineries and destroyed about fifty thousand tons of oil.]*

THE scorched and blackened Ukrainian earth. Here golden grain used to grow; here cherry orchards used to whisper in the wind, here factory chimneys used to smoke. This rich earth has everything man needs: coal, iron, oil, manganese and grain. Even the evenings seem unusual here: you feel as if the starry sky of the Ukraine has its like nowhere else in the world.

Like a cloud of locusts the Germans devastated towns and villages. Even the apple trees stopped giving fruit. But the Ukraine did not submit to the foreign invader. The heroic people rose like one man against the hated Germans. Men, women and youth left for the thick forests. They took up arms to strike terror into the hearts of Germans and their agents. The Ukrainian earth began to burn under the feet of the would-be conquerors.

Horrible crimes have been committed by the Hitlerites in the Ukraine. On the night of November 5th, 1941. Germans for no reason at all razed to the ground prosperous Mirgorod. They erected gallows in the Belopolye village of the Sumy region, and day after day fresh victims, men, women and youths, were brought to be hanged. On our way from Kiev to the Carpathian mountains we learnt of innumerable crimes committed by Germans.

The invaders planned to break the Soviet people by tortures and terror. They wanted to make them meek and submissive. But the opposite happened. Our people,



brought up by Lenin and fostered by Stalin, declared a ruthless war on the invaders. They joined guerilla detachments and detachments began to grow day by day and hour by hour. Soon large fighting units were formed.

So it was with my force.

At first we were but a handful, when the Germans captured Putivl where I had been working as chairman of the town Soviet, we made our way to the small Spaschansky forest which bordered on the Sevm and Kleven rivers. Here passed an important German line of communications. We decided to operate in this area. We mined roads, blew up bridges and, by October 1941, were able to give battle to two German tanks. Manoeuvring skilfully my small detachment managed to lure one of the machines into swamp, while the other one was crippled by mine. The crew and traitor who served as guide were destroyed and the armoured machine was captured. Guerilla K, a former chauffeur, became the driver while lieutenant F. artillery man, was made commander. This guerilla tank so frightened the Germans that for six months they dared not enter the forest.

We carried out a number of effective operations in the Sumy region. Our detachment several times liberated whole districts from Germans and for a long time held towns like Staraya Kuta and Putivl, and engaged superior enemy forces.

I recall the battle in which a small group of guerilla routed two German regiments. This is how it happened. Early in the morning of December 1, 1942, thousand and two hundred Germans with artillery and mortars surrounded the forest in which our detachment was. We were well acquainted with forest fighting. Guerillas gave battle to the enemy and routed him after nine hours of fighting.

Apparently, losing hope of defeating us with small forces, the Germans brought up a Hungarian punitive

division under Kallosvari. We engaged it near the village of Vesely in the Shalygino district. The operation was planned in the guerilla fashion and there was a certain subtlety about it. Things came to such a pass that the Hungarian division opened withering fire at the column of reinforcements that was coming to its aid. When in the evening of the second day Hungarians called out the Germans planes we proposefully left our positions. Taking courage the braves broke into empty village and in the morning were bombed by their own air force.

The guerilla detachments were hardened in the fire of the battle. My force alone has over eighteen thousand dead jerries and more than two hundred destroyed bridges to its credit. We wrecked scores of enemy trains, demolished factories and plants which were run by the invaders, burnt down oilfields and damaged hundreds of kilometres in the enemy's rear, smashing and dispersing thirty-nine of his garrisons.

On one occasion we even had to fight the enemy in a river flotilla. German armoured cutters, five big steamers, equipped with guns and barges were sent to the bottom. On that memorable day our detachment first met the guerillas led by the wise Hero of the Soviet Union, Fyodorov. It was an unforgettable meeting.

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### XXXV

## 'I AM DYING TO SEE.....'

BY VARYA PIKULISCHINE, BELO-RUSSIAN PARTISAN

**M**Y activity in the enemy rear began in November 1943 at time of October holidays. We had to mark them by some military operation and our group consisting of five was given an assignment to blow up an enemy

train. Using forest paths we came up to the rail road. We heard the footsteps of the sentry some distance away and were about to leave when suddenly I heard the noise of a train coming from Molodechno.

"Volodya", I said, that is the train. Now we could not go to another place—we would miss the train. "Let us get up in line", decided Volodya.

We emerged. We quickly arranged the detonation and ran back. The cars clanked and crept over each other. I forgot about the danger and watched, unable to tear myself away.

"Varya", It was Comrade Isaac calling. "Where are you"?

"Here" I replied. "I am dying to see.....".

I took Isaac's hand and we hastened along the forest path to catch up with others.

Back at our dugout we lay down to sleep but the details of the operation kept coming up in my mind. Stimulated by our success we decided to go on another raid next day.

On November 8th we got to the railroad at nine o'clock in the evening. We had not been there for more than five minutes when we heard the noise of a train. We planted nine kilograms of explosives. Four cars loaded with wheat and three platforms with automobiles crumpled up.

It was already winter. Lenin's Day, January 21st-22nd had come. Again a group was selected. Ivan Shirin, Ragovin, Fedya Monosov, Stepan Ivenetsky and Fedya Kolpakov. We were going to remind the Germans that *the partisans always mark famous dates by military operations.*

We harnessed two horses to the sledge and loaded explosives on it and set out. We would have to cross to the

her side of the railroad. We got horses to the other side and proceeded to wait. This time we were not so lucky. We patrolled the line for three nights—there were no trains, they simply did not come. The boys were nervous. We could not know, of course, that another unit had blown up the bridge across Niemen and traffic on the road was halted. On the fourth day we heard a locomotive whistle. The train moved slowly and carefully like a blind man feeling his way. The partisans had taught the Germans not to travel fast. Our bad luck kept up. The mine we had laid did not explode. We trudged back through snow, sleet and silent. At the table, in warmth our tongues loosened.

What can you expect from nine kilograms of explosives? At a snail's pace which the German trains travel all you can do is to blow up three or four cars at most. If we could only get some TNT and plant from sixteen to thirty kilograms of it?" reasoned Isaac. That is a good idea, it is worth thinking about others decided.

We appealed to some peasants we knew to help us to get some TNT. A peasant woman led us to some old German trenches and showed us some shells. We removed TNT from the shells and smelted it. With the help of the peasants we made some wooden boxes and obtained an enamel dish.

After we had smelted TNT, we had two boxes holding twelve kilograms each to which we attached detonators and were ready. On February 4th we planted two mines, the one sent by the unit went under the head of the train, and the home made one in the centre. The place was a very suitable one—in hollow between the two inclines. Although the train was travelling at a low speed it crumpled up like a house of cards. The locomotive, nine carloads of people, and six platforms of material were derailed. About sixty Germans were killed in the wreck and about seventy wounded.

We wanted to come back in two days but could not. The Germans had stationed petrol. We appealed to Josef Smolitsky, a chap from the village Saltany, Smorgon district, who used to work in the crossing between the stations of Bogdanovo and Gorodki.

"Choose good place and good long train", we begged. He did. An electro-repairs train consisting of eighteen cars of equipment and technical personnel. Two mines weighing twenty-six kilograms converted it into splinters.

On the following morning we had rest in Saltany, at the home of Natalya Khazan, a peasant woman whose husband had been killed by the Germans for his connections with partisans. Two women from the nearby village came to see her. We listened to their conversation.

"Did you hear the explosion"? asked one.

"Yes. I thought my end had come. All the window panes were shattered. The Germans were wild. They have already pulled out thirty bodies". My hostess whispered in my ear.

"That is your work, Varvara". The time given us by the command was up. Our assignment had been carried out. Now we could return. But we felt venturesome. We still had some TNT and luck would be with us. Smolitsky again led us to the same place where we had wrecked the train on February 7th. Until February 13th a strong unit of Fascists had been kept in ambush. We waited and on 14th February after the unit had been removed we derailed another train at the same place. Thirty-six Hitlerites were killed in the wreck.

## XXXVI

### Like Phantoms Everywhere

By YOKAV MAKARENKO.



SMALL log hut, with carved window frames and starlings' cote on a long pole affixed to the thatch



HERO OF THE SOVIET UNION NADEZHDA TROYAN,  
A BELORUSSIAN PARTISAN.

roof, stood in a little village on the edge of the forest. With this unassuming cottage were focussed all the guiding strings of partisan activity in Belorussia, from the Bug to the Dnieper and from the Dnieper to the Western Dvina. It was, one might say, the Partisan General Headquarters of Belorussia.

At the threshold of the hut we were greeted by the major-general in field uniform and a grey lambskin cap. He proved to be the chief-of-staff. His young face, with its close-cropped moustache, and his dark penetrating eyes betrayed a man of unusual will who had been through many vicissitudes and had more than once stared death in the face. On learning the purpose of our visit he led us into an improvised office and began to tell of the heroic deeds of the people's avengers who were helping the Red Army to drive the Germans out of Belorussia.

Before us lay a map on which the areas of partisan activity were marked with red flags. As the major-general told his story the map seemed to take on life and its green areas the appearance of fields of battles.

"The Belorussian partisans," the chief-of staff said: "are now operating in closest contact with Red Army Partisan detachments surround and annihilate German garrisons, blow up railway tracks, bridges and military trains, they dispose of traitors, and point out to the vanguard units of the Red Army how to by pass enemy strong-points and centres of resistance. In a word, this is a busy time for the partisans."

The partisan movement in Belorussia had assumed vast dimensions. The people's avengers have risen up at the call of Joseph Stalin and lit the fire of warfare all over Belorussia, harassing the enemy everywhere and giving him no respite. For two years they have been carrying on uninterrupted war in the Germans' rear and inflicting immense losses on them. This front is not marked on the German's maps, but it exists nevertheless, and is keeping the Germans constantly worried for the safety of their rear.

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Pill-boxes and block-houses at road intersections, at bridges and railway stations, and on the outskirts of villages, which are now silent and deserted, show that the partisans held entire districts under their control and that the German garrisons had to assume the defensive, build fortifications and conduct regular trench warfare. I have travelled tens of Kilometres through the liberated regions of Belorussia and everywhere I saw these pill-boxes, built of stout logs of concrete and adapted for a long siege.

On the outskirts of one village which our troops had just occupied the peasants showed me a regular fortress erected by the German gendarmes as a protection against the partisans. It was built of thick logs in the form of a rectangle and covered an area of about a hectare. In its walls, three metres thick, yawned embrasures, while from the corners projecting bastions with loopholes. In all, I counted some 80 loopholes in this German citadel which resembled a medieval fortress. Nevertheless, the partisans smoked the Germans out of this village, leaving the fortress intact as a memorial for their descendants.

The Red Army's summer offensive lent new strength to the partisan movement of Belorussia. Thousands of new men flocked to the detachments anxious to fight the enemy arms in hand. In a series of large-scale operations the partisans liberated whole districts, and when the Red Army, breaking down all obstacles, reached the borders of Belorussia, the partisans joined the ranks of the regular troops and marched forward with them.

"The Belorussian partisans," the major-general continued, "joined the Red army in forcing the Desna, the Sejma, the Sozh, the Pripet, the Dnieper and the Berezina. Many of them have been recommended for the title of Hero of the Soviet Union. The partisan detachments are now operating in the Polesye and Pinsk marshes."

Here the chief-of-staff was called to the wireless unit to

talk with one of the partisan detachments. He excused himself and left, but soon returned and said.

"That was another instance of partisan activity. One of the detachments reported that it has just carried by storm a large village on the lower reaches of the Berezina."

We could now hear the dull reservations of artillery. The chief-of-staff paused to listen, and then said:

"Those are partisan guns firing. The detachment must be attacking a second village."

In the forests of Polesye, at Minsk and Mozyr, in the Pinsk marshes and in Western Belorussia tens of thousands of partisans are active. According to incomplete data, in the past two years the Belorussian annihilated not less than 180,000 German officers and men, blew up hundreds of German trains carrying troops, armaments, ammunition, tanks and motor vehicles. In the summer of 1942 they killed in Minsk Hitler's vice-regent in Belorussia, Wilhelm Kuve.

The Belorussian people's avengers are keeping the Germans in constant fear and terror. Unteroffizier Hans Mueller, when taken prisoner, said:

"The partisans haunt like phantoms everywhere. They are in front of us and behind us. Partisan bullets strike from the right and the left. For those who are not killed in open battle death lurks in forests, ravines and villages—death at the hands of the partisans."

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## XXXVII

### The Red Army And The People.

BY ALEXANDER SERAFIMOVICH

Author of the well-known novel "Iron Flood"

THE German army on June 22, 1941, was securely clad in the steel of modern technique. It had tanks, guns and armoured cars in plenty. Swarming in the sky its air

Armada over the Soviet territory, disgorged parachute force loaded down fearful weight of metal.

Confronted with the news of armaments and new tactics tested by Germans in the west, the Red Army was then compelled to retreat. During the second year incredible thing happened: encrusted with metal the German army began to show signs of cracking up nonetheless. Things began to happen to its iron machines, its iron organization and discipline. The largest army in the world ever seen began to ebb away faster and faster from the vast expanses of smouldering Soviet soil.

Waters of the Don carried corpses of German soldiers to the sea. Mountains of German dead were left at Voronezh, Kursk and Orel. The turbid Dnieper too turned crimson with German blood and carried the dead to the sea. Furious battles were unleashed as blockade about Leningrad disintegrated.

Wherefore this transformation? What was it caused the iron-clad discipline of the German army to fall back?

The immediate cause was the Red Army, the masses and army of people at war. Not only its rank and file but its officers, its generals and its entire commanding staff are men who sprang from the people. And the latter eager to swell its ranks are doing all they can to secure the Red Army fightingmen it requires.

The old Cossack, broad shouldered and weather-worn entered the offices of the war commissariat in Shcherbakov district on the Don.

What can we do for you grandpa he was asked.

I wish to join up as a volunteer.

How old are you?

Sixty, replied the Cossack.

Sorry, we are not enlisting men of your age. What can an old man do at war anyway? Why you can't even climb on to a horse at your age.

His temper ran up, the Cossack literally dragged the resting officer to the street. A splendid animal smooth, well-groomed as any racehorse was tied there at the fence. The old man loosened the reins, skipped in the saddle at a single bound, applied the spurs, rode the prancing steed about a yard drew up before the officer and sprang on the earth, though the stirrups were things of no interest to him.

*"You would better take me, he advised or else I will go after the Germans on my own."*

On its bayonets the German army brought slavery to the people. The Red Army's banners flutter forth to defend its homeland and liberty, return light and happiness to all mankind whom the fascists killed for slavery.

People are fond of their warrior sons. Even pre-war Soviet troops found tables immaculately clothed and waiting for them in villages they passed. There were flowers on those tables and cool fresh water for those who were thirsty.

After they had captured Orel, the Germans drove a great crowd of some 15,000 women, children, and old men through Bryansk forests for shipment of slavery together with their belongings, their cows poultry etc. This mass of unfortunates trudged along depressed and hopeless. Tired and tormented who fell behind were shot down by guards. From ambush a small group of Red Armymen fell upon the Germans and killed a dozen of them. The rest dropped their tommy-guns and sought to evade retribution beneath wagons. When it was all over, women and oldmen embraced their deliverers.

One oldster led up his cow which would have been shipped to Germany, bowed and said: "You, our fighting men, have this. Keep the cow and may you enjoy its milk".

There were peals of laughter.

"What can we do with the cow, grandpa? One

can't keep a cow while out on reconnaissance. The Germans would see us fight away".

The old man shook his head thoughtfully, led the cow away and came back with a calf.

"How about a calf? You can take this calf, you know".

Red Armymen smiled at the oldster.

Peasants reach the men at the front from all parts of the Soviet Union, no matter how long are the routes by which they must travel. Soldiers receive honey raisings mittens socks, poultry, writing materials, books, meat, embroidered tobaccopouches, warm caps etc. Innumerable letters from unknown girls and women reach the men at the front. They are letters charged with love and tenderness for fightingmen whom the senders are scarcely like to see.

Millions of rubles find their way to the Defence Fund in the shape of voluntary contributions from collective farmers, workers, Soviet intellectuals, Soviet children, invalids and the entire Soviet people.

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## XXXVIII

### LENINGRAD IS WORTH DYING FOR

#### Kazak Heroe's thoughts

By A. ARNOLDov.

**D**URING the siege of Leningrad, the breach of the blockade and the subsequent offensive which hurled the Germans as far back as Narva and Pskov, we met quite

a few kazakh fighting men. Many of them had never been in the north or seen Leningrad before. Reared in the steppes they are excellent horsemen—one might have thought them to be unfit for action in the rigorous climate of the north, but the Kazakhs displayed great courage and endurance. They grew fond of the great city which they were destined to defend for a long time. They made many friends among the population. During the blockade one could frequently find Kazakh Red Army men and officers on furlough among guests at various clubs.

The Kazakhs indeed distinguished themselves among the bravest of the city's defenders and particularly so during the offensive.

At one sector during the offensive we had occasion to see the Kazakh non com' Tleukabylov. Severely wounded, he was receiving attention of the medical orderlies. Fourteen dead Germans lay about the place. This Kazakh non com' accounted for all of them.

How did it happen ?

After artillery preparation infantry went into attack. Sliding on German trench Tleukabylov was separated from his comrades engaging the enemy on communication passages. Suddenly, he found himself confronted by fourteen Germans. Letting fly with his handgrenade, the non com' opened fire with his tommygun. Seven of the enemy were killed but others scurried apart and began to surround the Kazakh. There was another grenade in his belt and cartridges in the magazine of his tommygun. He hurled his last hand grenade. Now there were three Germans but Tleukabylov was wounded. With a last effort he hurled himself upon one of them, tore the rifle from the enemy's grasp and downed this man with the butt end. Off the balance himself, he fell with his victim. Two remaining Germans seized him but the brave Kazakh used his dagger. Within a second he had plunged a weapon in the abdomen of one of his assailants. The last of the

Germans was strangled by the Kazakh. When stretcher-bearer reached the spot they found Tleukabylov clutching at the throat of the Nazi.

Exemplary courage in action against the fascist invaders was displayed by the machinegunner Nurmukhambekov thrice decorated for the defence of Leningrad with an order and two medals. When he received the medal for Defence of Leningrad the machinegunner said, "Leningrad is worth dying for." It is my town.

During a recent engagement the Kazakh machinegunner Nurmukhambekov took up position in the flank of his company. From here he opened fire at the enemy's strong points. Finding this insufficiently effective, he struck on a daring idea. Availing himself of a sparse brushwood he moved up to within close range of the enemy's positions.

Within a few minutes he annihilated two enemy machinegun crews. Though wounded, Nurmukhambekov continued to fire at the Germans and thereby covered the advance of his comrades. In this action he annihilated eighteen Nazis.

Close friends are the Russian Red Armyman Voronin and Kazakh chum Jampeisov. When their unit went up one night they found their way barred by intense machinegun fire. The enemy's firenest had to be eliminated.

"I will engage the Germans' attention at the front," Voronin, "and you try to reach their blockhouse in the flank."

And thus it was. Firing away Voronin drew the retaliating fire on himself while Jampeisov step by step approached the blockhouse in the flank. When his throwing handgrenade silenced the place Voronin rushed forward. Five Germans were dead. Three survivors surrendered. Valuable staff documents were found in the shattered blockhouse.

Both the Kazakh and the Russian were subsequently decorated together.

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XXXIX.

## BLOOD-FUED

By A. D. GURGVICH

**A**KHMET Kankoshev, a Caucasian fighter pilot, has declared a blood-feud on the Germans.

"They will never get away from this avenger", his friends would say, as they watched his persistent, tireless attacks on the enemy.

The story of Akhmet's blood-feud is as follows: Soon after Akhmet's native aul (village) in North Caucasus was liberated from the Germans, Akhmet received this letter from his father, Khatol Kankoshev, who wrote to him in the real old fashioned style.

"Germans have made a widow of Shamau's brother's wife. They hanged him. Now his soul will know no peace because of his shameful death. Germans also killed your dear sisters, Abgaru and Fatima, whose unhappy souls will never meet your mother for, daughters who have been disgraced may never look their mother in the eye.

My beloved son! Humanity demands that you take vengeance on the guilty. Get all your friends to join you if they really are your friends. They will surely help, won't they? You see, if you are alone, even though you have your machine, it will be hard to pay them back for all the suffering and sorrow they have brought to our family".

It was not long before Akhmet persuaded his friends to further his cause. Many of them themselves hav-



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It was not long before Akhmet persuaded his friends to further his cause. Many of them themselves have

witnessed the horrors of German brutality. The Sergeant Major of guards, Koss, Akhmet's closest friend, said to him: "I was in the German rear for five and a half months, and I will never forget what I saw there. But worse than anything was the body of the old woman hanging from an arch at the entrance to the village of Nezamaevsky. According to the notice board, they hanged her for refusing to submit to them. "Has she no sons to take vengeance?" I thought as I gazed at her from my hiding place in a wood nearby. From that very moment I set my eyes on that poor woman I swore to avenge her as her own son. Every pilot in the "avengers detachment" has different and terrible tale of what he has seen. The motto of the avengers is "hunt the enemy down; annihilate him".

The guards sergeant major Akhmet Kankoshev flies at the head of this detachment. Wherever he goes he proves his mettle by heroic deeds against the bloodthirsty foes of his family and all the peoples of the Soviet Union.

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## XL

### The son of Mountains-Sniper Abuhazi Idrisov.

By E. MINDLIN.

**A**BUHAZI Idrisov is a son of the small people of mountains in the Caucasus. In his blood runs the blood of the strong and daring Chechents offsprings of hills. They are hardy people, good hunters and horsemen. All these qualities make good snipers. But that is not all. A sniper must hate the enemy and crave for vengeance.

The Germans had set foot on the foothills of the Caucasus. The Hitlerite hordes had penetrated into the peaceful villages of these people of hills. German soldiers had violated thousands of their girls and women. In the

days when the Germans strived to capture Grozni—the native town of Abuhazi Idrisov—the Hitlerite soldiers dishonoured his sister in the village, and killed his uncle when the latter rose in her defence.

Before leaving, the brutes set fire to the village. Germans called these proud people of mountains “dogs”. In a small village mosque the Germans had drinking parties and raped the village girls and women ! ... ..

The heart of Abuhazi could not but rage with fury and hatred.

The National Historical Museum in the town of Grozni has opened a new department. The Chochentsi people are in struggle against the Hitlerites.

This department features a portrait of Abuhazi Idrisov. This young representative of the people is wreaking vengeance on the Germans for their outrages against his people. He has been awarded the Order of Red Banner and the Order of Red Star. Prior to the war this sniper was employed at the Grozni oilfields. He had already accounted for Hitlerite soldiers and officers. Abuhazi Idrisov swore that he would kill at least 1000 of the German bandits ! Here is one of the episodes in which he played a conspicuous part. During the night he made his way to the previously-selected spot near the enemy dugouts and entrenched himself. He observed the enemy positions for hours. At daybreak Soviet artillery went into action.

The sniper saw the shell score a direct hit on the blockhouse. Two panic-stricken German soldiers ran out of the demolished gunpost. He was determined that Germans did not get away.

Two reports followed and the Hitlerites sank to the ground. Meanwhile Soviet infantry went into action ; the sniper saw the Hitlerites leap into the dugouts. He realised that the Germans were men for a counter blow. Abuhazi Idrisov recalled his oath that he would give “ blood for

blood and life for life". He recollected the devastated villages, corpses of murdered and aged men and the cries of outraged women. His heart was fired with a thirst for vengeance. Eighteen Hitlerites he had already accounted for. The Germans attempted to counter-attack from the flanks. Germans were gaining ground on both the flanks. The position was becoming extremely critical when the sniper came to the assistance of the unit and saved the situation. The counter-attack was beaten off ... ..

That day Abuhazi Idrisov killed thirty Germans.

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## XLI

### FOR MY COUNTRY Soviet women in Battle

By COLONEL VALENTINA GRIZODUBOVA,

(Hero of the Soviet Union).

**THE** HISTORY knows no other war in which women have taken such an active part as in Soviet people's great Patriotic War against fascist Germany.

Raised by the Soviet society as fullfledged citizens, proud of their freedom and their rights, Soviet women could not reconcile themselves to the lot of mute slaves prepared for them by the fascists. They could not, and refused, to bend before the enemy's force and brutality.

The very first laconic reports of frontier battles mentioned names of intrepid women patriots who joined their husbands, brothers and comrades in defence of their native towns and villages. Women and girls went to the front as volunteers, joined ranks of people's guards and guerilla detachments.

Soldiering is an arduous labour and is especially hard for women, but Soviet women patriots have been stoically

bearing up with all the hardships of field life. In violent struggle against their brutal enemy on fields of battles unprecedented for their scope and ferocity, women have been displaying miracles of heroism and staunchness. Tens of thousands of women and frontline fighters and guerrillas have been awarded government decorations. Thirty-four valiant women patriots were honoured with the high title of Hero of the Soviet Union. These glorious women and girls who became national heroines are by no means phenomenal beings born for exploits, but ordinary citizens of the Soviet Union.

Maria Bayda, who won fame in the battle for the Crimea, was a sales clerk in a village store. She became an intrepid tommygunner. The bomber pilot Evdokia Pasal, former school teacher, dropped 49, 957 kilograms of bombs on the German invaders. Manshuk Mametov, a Kazakh medical student, wiped out hundreds of Germans with her machinegun. Nevel, in whose liberation she took part, has a street named after her. Firing her machinegun in this street, this mortally wounded girl frustrated the desperate German counter-attack, facilitating the advance of Soviet units. Maria Oktyabrskaya, a woman long past her youth, a splendid housewife, affectionate mother and good needleworker before the war, became a tank commander. Anastya Barbuzova, wireless operator, distinguished herself in fighting on approaches to the border of East Prussia. The enemy resisted desperately, fighting tooth and nail to every strip of the ground and on one sector succeeded in pressing back Soviet units. Only the wounded commander and wireless operator Barbuzova remained at the command's post. Ordering her to convey to the headquarters this message: "I demand artillery support and reinforcements", the commander lapsed into a swoon. Germans had already broken into Soviet trenches and were surrounding the command post. Just then she was asked where the fire is to be directed. Without flinching Anastya answered, "fire at me". She repeated it twice, afraid that she would

not be understood. The battery opened up immediately and Germans were ousted from trenches. The commander and the wireless operator survived by a sheer miracle.

There are many girls serving in ackack artillery. Corporal Klavdia Barkhotkina, ackack gunlayer serving on the Baltic Front, knocked down twelve German planes. Girls in the A. R. P. vigilantly guard Soviet cities and villages against fascist airraids.

Most frequently, one meets women and girls Red Cross nurses at the front. Constantly faced with mortal danger, they are carrying wounded soldiers and officers from under fire. During the battle of Stalingrad, the Red Cross instructor, Kukharskaya carried 348 wounded men to safety and army doctor's assistant Nine Kluyeva saved lives of six hundred men. The roster of Heroes of the Soviet Union who won distinction during the forcing of the Dnieper, includes names of three Red Cross instructors, Maria Schcheibachenko, Vera Kashcheyeva and Zinaida Semsonova. Defying furious enemy fire, these girls crossed the Dnieper with first detachments of brave men and on a strip of ground, captured from the enemy, saved the wounded, encouraged their comrades and inspired them to exploits.

Skilfully directing a small group of soldiers, Hero of the Soviet Union Guards Junior Lieutenant Maria Batrakova repulsed fifty-three enemy counter-attacks and eighteen airraids. The battle lasted five days without interruption. The Hitlerites attacked with tanks and infantry, but were unable to dislodge the group of brave fighters from the position held by them.

Guards Major, Evdokia Bershanskaya, is in command of regiment of light night bombers. Bershanskaya's regiment smashed Germans near Grozny, over steppe of the Kuban, over Keroh and Sevastopol. Her action in the north Caucasuses won the regiment promotion to guards. For distinction in operations which led to th

liberation of the Taman peninsula the regiment was conferred the name of Taman.

Lelya Kolesova, a Moscow school teacher in peacetime, repeatedly crossed the frontline with her group of fighters to cause damage behind enemy lines. Germans despatched special expeditions in pursuit of the diversionists but Lelya, with her group of nine Moscow girls remained elusive. These had joined acting army as volunteers during the grim days of 1941 when the enemy menaced the Soviet capital. Kolesova's group frequently joined in operations of guerilla detachments.

Soviet men and women guerillas rendered tremendous aid to the Red Army. Thousands of trains were sent crashing down embankments by daring girl guerillas; bridges were sent flying into air and thousands of Germans were wiped out by them. In one night battle the guerilla detachment commanded by Tatyana Lankove wiped out some two hundred Germans without any loss to itself. Anna Maslovskaya, now Hero of the Soviet Union, with eight of her comrades surprised a German garrison in the provincial town. One guerilla girl walked over to the police headquarters, and, beginning to chat with the sentry, gave an opportunity to her comrade to approach the sentry unobserved and remove him noiselessly. Two guerillas then broke into the police headquarters, disarmed seven police officers, and, taking along documents and armaments, went away. Joining the rest of their comrades, they raided the Commandant's apartment, post office and railway station. Daring guerilla raids frustrated plans of the German and caused panic among the Hitlerites.

Conditions of guerilla warfare, unequal combats, forcing of marches through swamps and forests, enemy encirclements all this demanded an incredible strain of will power and energy. Guerilla girls frequently set examples of staunchness and endurance. There is Olga



Tikhomirova, a guerilla scout and nurse. When the commander was wounded during a night battle in the Shablovo forest, she assumed command of the detachment and led guerillas into attack on enemy trenches. Her right arm torn by shell splinter, she continued to move forward until her comrades forced her to dress her wound and leave the field. Straining her effort to overcome the frightful pain, the young woman gathered all the wounded and led them to safe place.

The Soviet woman is going to battle for her honour for all the suffering and sorrow caused to Soviet people and all freedom loving mankind. The Soviet woman hates the Hitlerite invaders and will never forgive them for burning and ruining cities and villages; for torturing people to death at Mejdaneck and Tremblinka. Wrestling herself from peaceful labour and her hearth and home, she is now helping the Red Army to smash the enemy.

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## XLII

### SOVIET WOMEN TO THE FORE.

BY ALXANDRA YABLOCHKINA

**People's Artist of the USSR and Stalin Prize Winner.**

In our country women have long become accustomed to equal rights for women in all fields of public, political, economic and cultural life. These are things which cannot but amaze our friends abroad but have, for us, become customary everyday facts of life. And the fact that the emancipation of women, one of the greatest gains of the October Revolution, has firmly become a part of our life is evidence of the enormous strength of the Soviet structure.

If, as Griboyedov wrote, we compare the present century with the one just past we find that the "distance between them is truly enormous."

Gloomy and was life in prerevolutionary Russia. And if hundreds of thousands among courageous and talented women nevertheless grew up in that environment it was despite the ruling clique and as the result of bitter struggle against the Tsarist regime, struggle for life, justice and freedom.

The Soviet power has given millions of people new life and opened to Soviet women the wide road to progress. Women doctors, teachers, agronomists, tractor drivers, combine operator; woman prominent in state affairs; women professors, engineers, architects all this is no surprise whatever. During the war women have even mastered trades such as those of the blacksmith, steelmaker blastfurnace operator—which have long been considered men's trades.

I, an actress, am particularly proud of the fact that Soviet actresses are on a par with other women of our country and take an active part in all fields of endeavour. There are actresses in frontline theatre brigades which give performances to our boys at forward position to raise their spirits, offer them entertainment, relaxation and pleasure to offset the hardships of campaign life. Undaunted by danger and difficulties of the front, these brigades give thousands of performances in dugouts, blindages, forest clearing and on ships. Frequently, soldiers, refreshed and strengthened, go into battle straight from the performances.

Women have come to the fore particularly during the great Patriotic war. At the front and in rear, on the battlefield and at machine, women have been struggling side by side with men against the hated fascist invaders and for the happiness and security of their fathers, mothers and children.

We know that women of Great Britain America, France and Belgium—women of all the freedom-loving people are taking an active part, often displaying great Heroism in the common struggle against the enemy. We know, too, that our sisters abroad are inspired to work and struggle by the immortal feats of Russian women. On planes and tanks, in guncrews and with rifles, are Soviet women meeting out death to the enemy. The whole world knows the names of the valiant patriots Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya, Liza Chaikina and Ludmilla Pavlichenko. Our people will never forget those hundreds of thousands of heroic partisan girls who boldly faced death for the glory of their country. These women have inscribed one of the brightest pages in the history of mankind's liberation struggle.

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XLIII

## WOMAN DOCTOR AT THE FRONT

BY COLONEL S. BAGDASARYAN

(Member of the Medical Corps)

**W**HEN the Soviet Union was attacked by the Nazis Doctor Zinaida Georgevskaya, an ordinary modest physician, was working in one of the hospitals in the country. While the doctor is nonetheless esteemed for working in rear hospitals from the very outset of the war, Doctor Zinaida Georgevskaya was keen on giving medical aid directly on the battlefield.

Finally, she got a commission to accompany a troop-train at the front and hoped that her earnest wish to be of use in the battle would be fulfilled.

Upon the train reaching its destination Doctor

Georgevskaya filed an application to be allowed to remain as surgeon of the unit with which she had arrived. The request was granted. Since that time Doctor Georgevskaya has been on the field with her company rendering first aid, taking charge of the medical orderlies and has so organized things at the regimental medical station as to ensure the best medical service and transportation of the wounded.

Soon afterwards Doctor Georgevskaya was given a more responsible job in the medical battalion of the division. Here, too, she displayed great energy. Day and night she was on the spot waiting for the incoming ambulances, attended to the wounded and saw to their being fed in time and comfortably and properly accommodated. Her freetime she devoted to instructing medical orderlies and nurses.

Doctor Georgevskaya's greatest concern was for the seriously wounded. To these patients she gave the most attention, instructed the nurses in regard to the exceptional care they needed and checked on how the orders were being fulfilled. She made it a plan to see for herself that, upon evacuation, the wounded were comfortable in every respect. The medical orderlies were detailed to accompany the wounded and receive individual instructions regarding each soldier patient.

The unit where Doctor Georgevskaya served, encountered the enemy and fought a fierce battle. All through the hectic days of the fighting this gallant Russian woman doctor ministered to the wounded under hurricane fire, herself carried them to the dugouts and blindages and immediately, with the help of stretcher bearers, arranged for their transformation to the nearest field station. At one's throw from the forward positions Doctor Georgevskaya dressed the men's wounds and, at the same time, performed blood transfusion.

"In some cases blood transfusion" Doctor Georgevskaya told us "was the only means of saving a soldier's

life and we have no right to pause before difficulties ”.

All through the fighting Doctor Georgevskaya's activities and those of the medical staff inspired by her example were concentrated on the battlefield. The Nazi gunners did their best to prevent the removal of the wounded from the field and continually fired at the ambulances, many medical orderlies, doctors and nurses perishing at their post. But, no matter at what cost, to save as many lives of fighting men as possible was the major concern of the medical battalion.

At one time, when Doctor Georgevskaya was in ambulance, Nazi planes swooped down and opened fire. Luckily, there was a blindage near at hand and somewhat on the side of the brushwood. In the nick of time Doctor Georgevskaya was getting the wounded safely under cover. Machinegun volleys swept the road while, under Doctor Georgevskaya's direction, the stretcher-bearers carried out the wounded to the last man. When the Soviet hawks dispersed the Nazi pirates, the wounded were safely delivered to the medical station.

Doctor Georgevskaya is deeply attached to her whole staff of medical workers and, particularly, to her assistant, Zaboturina.

“ She is a splendid person to have with the wounded ” said Doctor Georgevskaya “ you will always find her at somebody's bedside either coaxing a patient to take his medicine or feeding him, or just dropping a kind, cheering word here and there. Always cheerful, beaming this youthful girl is the darling of the wounded. The patients who had been under her care do not forget her and she gets loads of letters from them.”

When it comes to talking about herself Doctor Georgevskaya's words grow scant and terse. Her closest colleagues, however, are lavish in their ardent admiration for their dauntless chief, for her unfailing energy and that sterling quality of getting her job done under most trying

f conditions in the face of what would seem insurmountable odds.

In recognition for her services the surgeon Zindaïda Georgevskaya has been recently decorated with the Order of Red Banner by the Soviet Government.

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#### XLIV

### WOMEN PARTISANS

BY TATIANA ZUYEVA

General Secretary, Soviet Women's anti-Fascist Committee

**F**AR behind the enemy lines many thousands of Soviet people are waging a fierce struggle against the German invaders. Women and girls, fighting side by side with men in the ranks of partisans, have amazed the world by their Kosmodemyanskaya, Liza Chaikina and Tonya Petrova, known to millions of people. Among the valiant daughters of Soviet people, who have covered themselves with glory are the Karelian scout, Anna Lisitsina and Larina Melentieva, Ulyana Gremova and Lyuba Shevtsova, young underground workers of Krasnodor. Thousands of other intrepid girl patriots are waging relentless struggles against the enemy.

The life of a partisan is fraught with hazard and difficulties of unequal battles, long and fatiguing treks through forests and swamps and hardships and constant danger. It is not easy for women and girls to share the life of men in this struggle. In the beginning of the war a young partisan girl made the following entry in her diary:

"How my life is changed! Instead of a warm and comfortable home I live in crowded dugout, instead of electricity cotton wick in a dish of fat gives flickering light

instead of soft bed there is hard wooden berth and even of these we get so little".

But nothing can daunt these brave partisan girls. Very young girls come to partisan detachments and insistently demand to be accepted as members. And how can a commander refuse them on the ground of their youth and lack of training when he sees how they are burning with hatred against the enemy that has razed their homes and killed members of their family?

When they learn to use their weapons these girls will go without hesitation to most daring and dangerous operations.

A partisan girl of 18 and her friend was given the most difficult task, namely, to establish communication with a partisan detachment operating far behind the enemy lines. They set out in bitter frost. Her friend died on the way from hunger, cold and hardships but she went on alone. It was fearful to spend the night alone in woods. Sometimes her feet would not carry her any longer and her head would grow heavy with weariness, but she kept on. The girl covered hundreds of kilometres and fulfilled her task. Her strong spirit conquered fear, hunger and fatigue.

"I just kept on" she related afterwards. "When I was tired I had to sit down to weep a little. Then I remembered that they were waiting for me and that perhaps the fate of many depended on my coming. So I had to get up to continue walking. It was terribly hard, but we just kept on".

Collective farm milk-maids, school teachers, typists and students have become resolute and capable soldiers in partisan detachments. Katya a young Belo-Russian woman partisan has become a master wrecker. Together with her friends she has derailed several enemy trains. Irina, Shura and Zina, girl partisans of another detachment, have caused destruction to seven German trains.

There are no bounds to the devotion of Soviet partisan women. Rima Shershneva is spoken of with love and admiration in forest and around partisan campfires. She is remembered in far away Belo-Russian villages where she used to go in the dead of night for the latest communiques of the Soviet Information Bureau. She is known in Moscow too. Rima belonged to a partisan youth detachment named in honour of Captain Gavello. The girl took part in the detachment's 1,200 kilometre march through enemy rear and proved to be a staunch soldier in many battles, clashes and wrecking operations. Once the partisans were attacking a German garrison, which resisted furiously. There was one strong point in particular that gave the partisans trouble and threatened to disrupt the attack. The detachment commander rushed forward with a grenade but a bullet felled him. Then Rima threw herself on the embrasure of the enemy strongpoint.....She gave her life in order to help the detachment smash the enemy. When the news of Rima Shershneva's supreme devotion reached Moscow the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, USSR posthumously awarded her the Order of Red Banner.

When a Soviet partisan girl falls to the hands of Germans no torture can make her to talk.

Vera Porshneva was seized by the Germans in village of Borisovka of the Kalinin region. The enemy subjected the girl to all torments that their depraved minds could conceive of. They whipped her with leather thongs, then flung her naked to a cold barn. They could get nothing out of her; they tried promises also. Then they tortured her by driving red hot needles in her arms and under her nails. But Vera kept silent. Next day they branded a star in her breast.....One torment followed another. Before her death Vera wrote a note to her mother reading :

"Mamma! I want so much to live! I have accomplished so little. I want to live so as to personally take part in smashing these savages. They have tortured



me, but I know that the partisans will avenge my death. The fascists will be made to remember the Russian people! Good-bye and don't weep, mamma! You will be helped".

Vera stood her ground to the end. There are many girls in partisans detachments who are ready like herself to lay down their lives for their country.

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## XLV

# THE GIRL FROM UZBEKISTAN

BY OLGA KUZNETSOVA

THE young, promising life of Guildjikhan Tishabayeva, a nineteen-year-old girl from fragrant orchards and boundless cotton plantations of Soviet Uzbekistan, was cut short by a Nazi bullet.

Who is this young Uzbek girl who did not hesitate to give her life for the happiness of her country? All who knew her speak of her firm will, her enthusiastic nature and amazing resoluteness in achieving whatever she set herself out to do.

When the Nazis attacked the Soviet Union this young girl was in her first year in the teachers' college in Tashkent the capital of Uzbekistan. Having then resolved to go to the front she enrolled in radio operators in the army school. It took her very little time to fathom all the intricacies of a radioman's job. The perseverance and the assiduity she displayed in her studies, her lofty principles and will-

power were a joy to the officers who taught her, as well as to her fellow students. At the army school she found time for everything, combining, with bracing cheerfulness, the duties of editor of the school's wallpaper, organizer of youth activities, spokesman and initiator of all sorts, cultural and educational undertakings. After being for a week at the school, she was made commander of her section, and very soon became a general favourite.

"We could not help being fond of Guildjikhhan" says Sergeant Khomyakova, Guildjikhhan's fellow student. "She is an excellent student; her reactions were always interesting and she had a big generous heart amazing in its crystal purity". And it was this big, throbbing heart that Guildjikhhan had given to her country.

After graduating from the school Guildjikhhan went to join radiomen at the front. Then followed seven months of battle: months of courage and gallantry, bitter defeat and proud victory.

"Dear folks, do not worry about me" she wrote tenderly to her parents; "I am quite well and trying my best to make it hot for the jerries. Please take good care of yourselves; I hope it won't be long before I return home and we will celebrate the victory".

Things turned out to be particularly hard for Stalingrad in the autumn of 1942. Guildjikhhan's battalion was stationed in a little hamlet of Zimovniki at the approaches to Stalingrad. While gallantly repulsing the attacks of the onsetting enemy far superior in numbers, the battalion was finally compelled to withdraw to the hamlet. At this crucial moment it was essential to connect the battalion with the headquarters to communicate an important order and it fell to Guildjikhhan to accomplish this.

The autumn wind howled and the rain came down in torrents, beating against the window of a little hut where Guildjikhhan bent over her set. The muffled rattle of gun reports came fitfully while, with every muscle strained,

Guildjikhhan listened. She tapped again and again but all in vain. And every second she waited was driving her to despair. She knew that she must transmit the order at all costs and thus save the situation; and she listened for the least sound of least vibration. Then suddenly it came when the German tanks were rattling in the hamlet, Transmitting the order in the nick of time, Guildjikhhan put the set out of commission, bolted the door and the carbine was made ready for defence. Just as the Nazi soldiers were breaking in she rushed out and, after shooting down three men with carbine, was caught and brought to the Nazi officer. At the examination the officer threatened, shouted banged his fist on the table-but he could not yet a word out of the Uzbek girl.

"Where is the staff?" he kept on demanding.

Guildjikhhan was tortured and dragged through the streets. Losing consciousness she groaned with intolerable pain, while soldiers emptied buckets of cold water over her trying to make her speak. But Guildjikhhan, with eyes darkened by pain, only gazed disdainfully in the brutal face of her torturers and kept silent. Then, mustering her last bit of strength, she turned and spat in the face of the Nazi officer. Enraged, the Nazi instantaneously drew his pistol and fired at her breast—thus putting an end to the precious life of this loyal Soviet daughter.

At the Army school where Guildjikhhan Tishibayev studied her memory is dearly cherished. Here you will find all her pictures, letters, notes and her diary carefully preserved. Guildjikhhan's biography will shortly be published. Her example inspires an unfailing hatred toward the enemy and a deeper understanding and loyalty to the country in those now being trained in the Army School. Each day, when during the rollcall in company number four Guildjikhhan Tiakhabayeva's name is mentioned everyone thrills to reply: "Died the death of a brave for the country under the walls of Stalingrad".

## Bequests Of Great And Noble Mind

BY NINA CHERNISHEVSKAYA.

ON the steep bank of the Volga in Saratov stands a small white mansion immersed in a wealth of greenery. It is built in the late Empire Style of the last century; its facade is delighting to the eye with the noble lines of its columns and the simplicity of its plaster decorations.

And it is in this house flooded with sunlight from its tall, Venetian windows, that my grandfather, Russia's beloved writer, Nikolai Chernishevsky was born and bred. "What is to be done?" is Chernishevsky's most widely read novel in which he portrays the independent woman of the future. Today I am glad to say that scores of thousands of women in my country—including myself—have asserted their independence, and thus have been able to make Chernishevsky's dream of a truly emancipated woman come true.

My father, Chernishevsky's youngest son, preserved his father's manuscripts. In 1918, after the Revolution, he presented Chernishevsky's house to the state as public property to be turned into a museum.

On his death-bed my father bequeathed to me to continue his work in regard to my grandfather's literary heritage. After my father's death I devoted myself to studying Chernishevsky's archives. For the past twenty-three years now I have been Custodian of Chernishevsky Museum and have, at the same time, been lecturing on the writer, cataloguing his works, writing annotations in his manuscripts and bibliographical surveys on his life and works. Simultaneously I have been comparing his published works with their manuscript counterparts in order to prepare for the publication of his complete works in sixteen volumes. Up to the present we know of Chernishevsky's complete works

in eleven volumes under the editorship of Mikhail Chernishevsky, my father. This edition, however, not always coincides with the original, by no means complete.

Recently I have had occasion to use my book "Annals of life and works of N.G. Chernishevsky" for the dissertation I defended at Leningrad University where, some ninety years ago, my grand-father read his thesis. I have received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. My book contains a great deal of facts on the life, works and public career of Chernishevsky and is furnished with extensive commentaries throwing light on the circumstances under which Chernishevsky lived and worked.

On leaving home to go to university on the day I was to defend my dissertation my two-years-old grandson stretched out his arms, begging me to take him along. His father, my son, was killed in action in battle round Smolensk in 1941. In his person has our family fulfilled one of Chernishevsky's most noble bequests—not to spare one's life for the good of one's country—and I am proud of my son whose photo I always keep next to my heart. It is my great hope to bring up my grandson so that he may love his country as dearly as his father and likewise cherish the heritage of his great-great-grandfather.

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## XLVII

### MOTHER'S TEARS

By NOVIKOV PRIBOV.

(Well-known Soviet writer of sea stories)

**I**N the great fellowship of the Soviet people the Russian woman is giving her best of all her knowledge and all her strength to struggle against the hated enemy. Her unselfishness, her heroism and courageous efforts she makes

at work are seen in higher relief during the war than at any other time. There is no branch in industry and agriculture where the woman does not occupy positions as responsible as those given to men. Newspapers and radio report almost daily on her achievements at the front and on the home-front. The names of many such women will be cherished in the memory of their people as symbols of their burning love for their country, supreme devotion and heroism. But there are others besides these whose glory resounds throughout they are not called upon to sacrifice their lives for their country's freedom and happiness, but they love it nonetheless passionately and help it in every way they can. It is one of these women that I want to speak about now.

Euphrosinia Erokhina is well-known to everyone in the Kirov settlement in the Moscow region. Aunt Frosia, as they call her affectionately, is fifty-five. She has two sons at the front. Sergei, the elder, who is in artillery and Georgi who is on submarine. Letters arrive but seldom and are read with great excitement. Sons write of the Red Army's victories and of their own share in fighting. And their mother's hearts are so full of joy these days that it is hard for her to restrain her feelings. She goes to neighbours reads letters to them and talks about the boys. Her boundless love for her children glows in her eyes for all to see and understand. This fund of maternal love is too vast to be expended on her sons alone; it embraces all who are defending their country and are driving the invader from its bounds. She wants to help each; she wants to bring each some joy and this she does in so far as it lies in her power.

A very fine custom came in with the war: it consists in sending presents to the front in time for the May Day holidays, the anniversary of the Revolution, the New Year and the Red Army Day. These have to be collected, packed and sent off. Aunt Frosia has taken this work upon herself. She goes from house to house collecting felt boots, warm underclothing, mittens and towels; she examines each article with care. There is a mother's tenderness in her

voice as she tells the giver that everyone of these modest gifts will convey to the front something of the love and thoughtfulness expended on them by the people in the rear. She has sent off several thousand of these gifts and parcels.

There was a time when Germans were approaching Moscow and air alerts were sounded several times a day. Aunt Frosia was assistant A.R.P. warden and, despite her age, performed her duties in an exemplary way. Now that the enemy has been pressed far back from the capital, she has new duties. She visits the sick in hospitals, talks to the wounded, knits socks and gloves for them, reads them letters from her sons and listens attentively to their stories of battle and of families far away. The wounded have grown very fond of this quiet, cheerful, elderly woman; they look forward to her coming and call her "Mamma."

The war has brought tears and trouble to many: some have lost relatives, others their homes and all possessions that represented years of toil. And there were those whose relatives were driven into penal servitude into Germany. Aunt Frosia had a hard time of it these days letters ceased to arrive from her younger son. A month passed into two and a half year, but still no news came. "He must have been killed" she said to herself; then thrust away that dreadful thought. A letter from Sergei brought bad news: he was seriously wounded and had been taken to hospital in Saratov. Sorrow spread its dark wings over the mother. "Once I had two sons" she repeated as she tossed in her bed these sleepless nights. "And I have given my whole life to them and now....." She was afraid to think this thought out. But it kept returning: "It may be that I shall be left with no son at all". She grew pale and hollow-cheeked; her eyes were sunken; her shoulders bowed, as though under some invisible burden. Her trouble was known all over the settlement but nobody ever saw tears in her eyes. She kept up her visits to the hospitals. The



RUSSIA'S ACE PILOT  
*Hero of the Soviet Union V. Grizodubova with her son.*



wounded were dearer to her now than before for in each man she saw her own son. Her only desire was to bring Sergei home from Saratov Hospital. The head of the local hospital agreed to take him in for further treatment. So, at last, aunt Frosia could set out for Saratov. Sergei was already able to get about on crutches. After she brought him home he lay for two months in local hospital and was then granted leave until he recovered his health. With her loving care he soon got well and was thinking of returning to active service before his leave was up. But he could not bring himself to tell her his decision. The boundless love that showed in her eyes, her kind hands and her voice made him afraid that perhaps the blow would be too much for her. He hated to think that the quiet happiness in her eyes would be dimmed by tears. Till he told her at last, watching her anxiously while he awaited her reply.

"Whenever you are reading a paper or listening into the radio I can tell by your face what thoughts are passing in your mind", she said. "I was expecting you to say this. So I have been getting your warm socks and underwear ready. If doctors say that you can go back to join the defenders of your country will you go".

He looked at her attentively, searching for traces of hidden alarm and anxiety, but saw none. Stirred by her firmness he said (and his voice shook slightly): "What a grandmother I have!"

"Just like everybody else's mother, I expect" she replied with an embarrassed smile.

She was telling the truth during the trying days of the war. Millions of Soviet mothers saw their sons off to the front and gave them their blessing. The love of her country and the hatred towards her enemies glowed as passionately in Aunt Frosia's hearts as her love for her sons. And when she went to see him off he would not be saddened by her tears.

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But I saw these tears not so very long ago. I met her in street and she came up to me quickly. She wanted to say something but suddenly her chest heaved and big tears rolled down her cheeks.

"She must have had news of the younger boy", I thought and asked, "it is about Georgi?"

She nodded.

"What, has he been killed?" "No, he is alive; he was wounded and got well and went back to fight again. Listen this, what he writes". She hastily pulled out a letter and read it aloud. "Mother, I have been awarded medal for Leningrad's Defence and a Red Star for carrying out a responsible mission. I owe all this to my mother. It is you who brought me up to be what I am; it is you who taught me to be staunch and to love my country, the decorations I have won are yours as much as mine. You have earned them no less than I have....."

She could not read any further; she put away the letter and smiled at me.

"That's what he writes", she whispered "it is such a joy to me".

And tears rolled down her cheeks.

It was the first time that I had ever seen Aunt Frosia crying, and her tears, joyous tears of a mother, moved me more than I can say.

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#### XLVIII

### ZOYA.

#### The Immortal Heroine.

By GALINA GOLTSEVA.

○N the way to the village of Petrischevo you pass the skeleton of a hospital demolished by Germans and new log cabins of a rehabilitated collective farm.

From here the road winds through wood. Then you come to a swamp with rusty German helmets strewn about, cross a small bridge and the village lies before you.

Traversing this road and entering this village—somehow different from any other road you have followed and any other village you have visited—, you feel that this is a sacred soil, for it is trodden by the feet of the heroic Russian girl, Zoya Kosmodemyanskaya. And, no matter where you are, whether on broad green village street or in spacious cottage, village Soviet or in village school, or even out in the field where spring work is in full swing, you sense the invisible presence of the partisan girl Zoya.

From the window of the collective farm administration building you see a blue pond and near it some poplars. The swish of leaves brings you Zoya's words: "*I am not afraid to die, comrades. I am happy to die for my people.*" She spoke these words as she stood on the scaffold. Today they are inscribed on the selfsame spot under the poplars where Zoya, barefoot and wearing nothing but a chemise on that frosty night, was tortured to death by the fascist savages.

In the village Soviet, Zoya's sweet face looks down you from the wall. Fir branches and cherry blossoms have been tenderly arranged around her portrait. There is an album containing photos and carefully written accounts by collective farmers who knew Zoya.

Shura Nikitina, girl incharge of the village reading room, told me her recollections of Zoya and then suggested that I visit the people who saw and talked with her just before she died. Before we left she put some books away in the drawer.

"Is that your library?" Yes, part of it". Have you many readers?" "Everybody in the village". "What is the most popular books here?" "Zoya" by Margarita Aliger"

As we walked down the village street the mail-car passed and handed Shura a letter. She opened and read it.

"Here is one of the many letters we receive", she said showing it to me, "from people who come specially to visit Zoya's grave".

The letter said, I did not get a chance to make your acquaintance personally and therefore write to you this letter. I arrived in Petrishchevo at night and met an old woman on the way who crossed herself when she heard me mention Zoya and led me to the grave of our heroine. I stood over it for a long time thinking about this girl whose name will never die among us. I also thought about those whose hands wove the wreaths which lay on her grave. Then I added a small bouquet that I had picked and hurried off to catch my train. Some day I will come again with my friends and perhaps our partisan ribbons will remind you of those who drove the Germans out of the villages near Moscow . . . . .

The letter was signed 'A partisan.'

Shura took me to Avdotia Voronina, an old collective-farm woman whose serious face was covered with fine wrinkles.

"This is where they brought her. Zoya sat on this very stool. And there" she said pointing to the opposite side of the room, "is where they questioned her, beat, and tortured her. But she did not give a single one of her comrades away."

Life in that village is bound up in many ways with the name of Zoya. Take, for instance, the collective farmer, Praskovya Kulikova, a mother of three, who gets up very early every morning. She prepares breakfast for the family, wakes up children and sees to it that they are dressed and fed. Before leaving for work she reminds the children not to be late for school. They go to the afternoon session".

"I won't be late", her son assures her and sits down to his home work.

His little sister is already bent over her book. She is solving a problem. Here is something proud in the way she carries herself; and the reason for that is contained in her reply to the question: "What's your name?"

"Zoya. I am so glad mamma gave me that name. And I am going to be like our Zoya ....."

When Praskovya comes home in the evening she busies herself with the supper and many other things.

"You must excuse me", she told me one evening, "if I give you so little of my time: there's so much to do, you know".

"You *do* have a hard time of it, don't you?"

Praskovya did not reply at first. Then, looking at her work-worn hands, she repeated.

"Hard time?" And she led us to the door of her long hut.....

"Have you read this?" She asked.

On the board over the approach we read these words Here is where Zoya spent her last hours of torment".

"And you ask whether things are difficult! May be, they are, but when I remember Zoya I want to work still harder. She had a much worse time of it. And she did not grudge her strength or life itself....."

And Praskovya Kulikova told us how Zoya was brought to her from grandma Voronina's, how the girl asked Germans for water and they put a burning lamp to her lips. The whole world knows that story. And she, Praskovya Kulikova, had seen it with her own eyes.

She was sifting flour as she spoke....."

"Talking about hardships", she continued, "what's left

on our collective farm after Germans were driven out? Only two skinny nags out of forty fine horses. And no cows, or bulls or tractors.

The fascists robbed us of everything. Yes, it was hard. But it was a thousand times harder for our Zoya. And how she took it! Like a heroine! Like a martyr!"

I was present at another scene from life at the village of Petrishevo. Dusk had fallen and the damp air was filled with fragrance. From a distance came strains of accordion; people had come from fields and were having supper at the collective farm dining room. Moving her stool closer to the lamp Shura opened a newspaper. "Russian nature", she read "by Alexei Tolstoi".

Everybody listened in silence.

"Such is the Russian nature", she read. "They are, it seems, simple people. Yet, when misfortune strikes, be it heavy or light, they become imbued with a tremendous strength and human splendour".

"Yes like our Zoya", someone said, "tremendous strength and human splendour!"

When the girls went out into that June night, the pond shimmered in the moon light. And poplars were touched with silver. By the moon light I could read those unforgettable words—Zoya's words: "I am not afraid to die, comrades. I am happy to die for my people".

